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Towards the end of Zola Doda's feature on Orlando Pirates' "Class of 95" (see page 52-58), Bernard Lushozi has some strong words for the current Pirates side.

He chides them for not carrying their CAF form into the Absa Premiership, and he demands of them their best in the CAF Confederation Cup: "This generation should give their best to win it," he says.

Lushozi was a hard – some would even say dirty – defender, but he is a gentle soul off the field, and for many years has taught kids with special needs. He knows what suffering is; and he will have little sympathy for 'softies' who do not know how to stand up and fight.

"The present team have a chance of winning, but there are certain things the coaching staff must tell these players. They can't play well in Africa and then come back and lose matches in the PSL," he says on page 58.

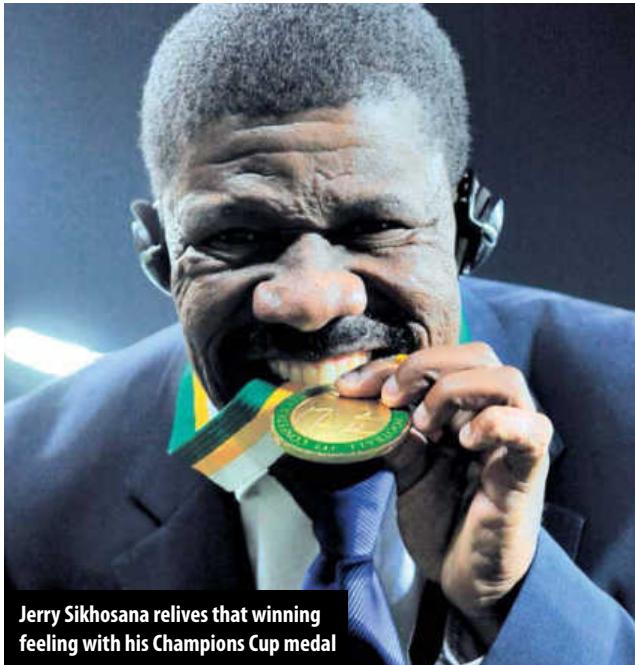
Today's Buccaneers are to be applauded for going as far as they have in the Confederation Cup, but they owe it to their club, their chairman and their supporters, to win it. For Pirates above all other South African clubs, have consistently treated CAF competition with respect and done their utmost to achieve continental success.

Make no mistake; the job will be difficult.

Etoile du Sahel are perhaps not the side Asec Mimosas were in 1995, but they are no pushovers. Any team that beats Zamalek in a semi-final needs to be treated with respect.

Nine-times champions of Tunisia, they also hold a very special record: the Red Devils of Sousse are the only club to have won ALL of CAF's major club competitions: the Champions

DO IT AGAIN!



Jerry Sikhosana relives that winning feeling with his Champions Cup medal

League (in 2007), the Confederation Cup (2006), the Cup Winners' Cup (1997, 2003), the CAF Cup (1995, 1999) and the Super Cup (1998, 2008).

They also boast the Confederation Cup's leading scorer this year, a bulldozing striker called Baghdad Bounedjah.

Pirates will need all their undoubted ability and the attacking verve they showed in beating Kaizer Chiefs in the Premiership recently; all the guts that Lushozi calls for; and yes, some of the luck of Abidjan.

If that all comes together, then the Buccaneers can once more reign supreme.

It so very nearly did not come together for them 20 years ago.

As Doda writes on page 56, Helman Mkhale scored a glorious opener in the first leg of the Champions Cup Final at Soccer City, combining with Jerry Sikhosana before curling the ball inside the far post. But Asec fought back and the Bucs

lost their heads. Two defensive errors, two goals conceded. Then captain Innocent Mncwango was sent off for a stamp. Not yet half-time and Pirates were down to 10 men and staring defeat in the face.

The indomitable Gavin Lane dragged them back into the tie with a 42nd minute headed equaliser and they almost snatched a late winner when Marc Batchelor missed from close range at full stretch.

But at 2-2, Pirates were written off before the second leg.

What followed was the legendary 'miracle of Abidjan', a story told and retold, of 11 men who faced down 27 shots at their goal, and held out to score the winner with one of only two chances.

May history repeat itself...

Richard Maguire
Editor



PICTURE LEFT: SHWAMBU GALLIMAGES (1)



Airborne – Kaizer Chiefs forward Bernard Parker is sent flying following a challenge from Maximilian Mbaeva of Golden Arrows

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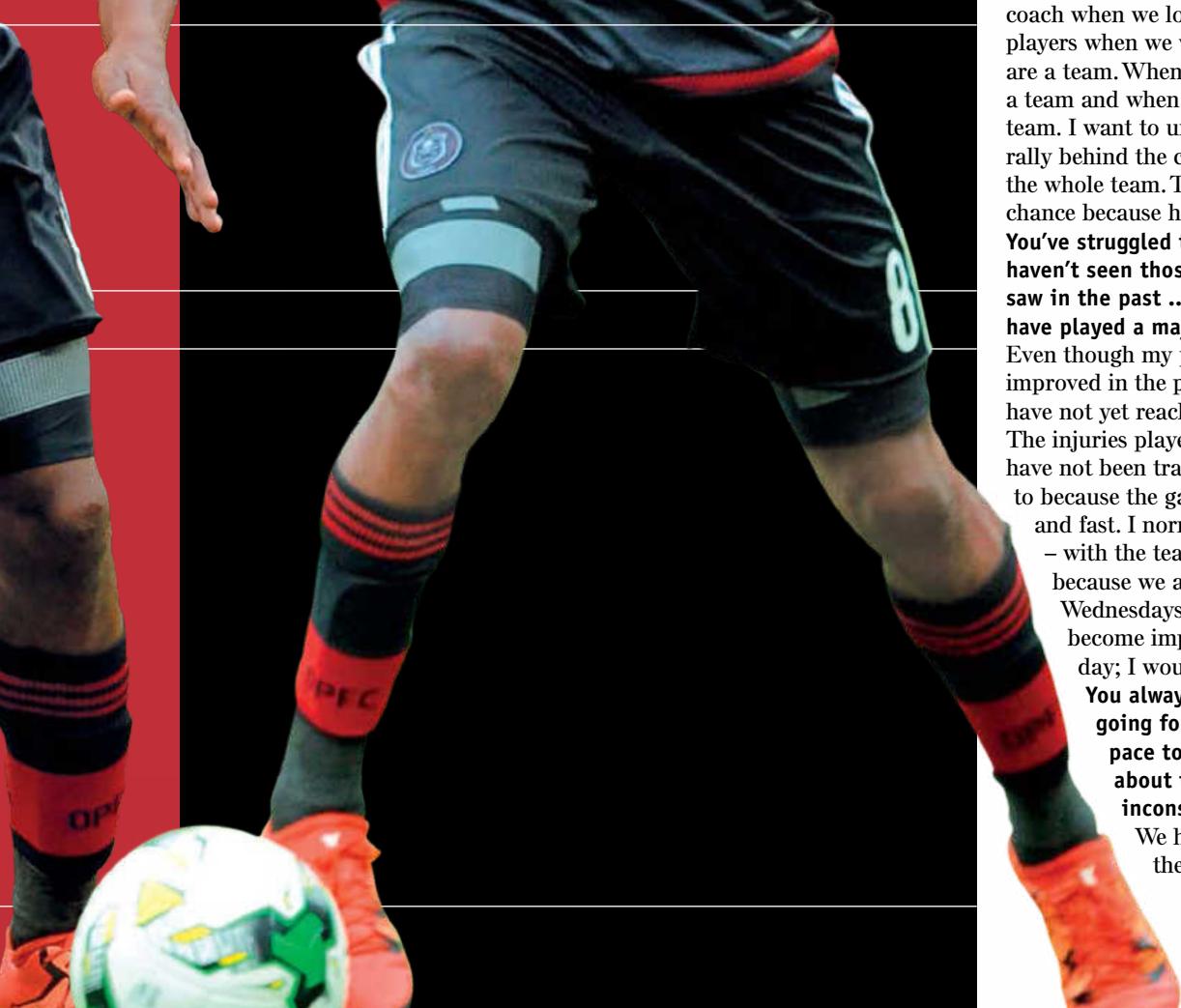
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BY ERNEST FAKUDE

As Orlando Pirates prepare for the CAF Confederation Cup Final, wingback **THABO MATLABA** finds himself elevated to captain. A stand-in captain lifted the CAF Champions Cup for the Buccaneers in 1995 – can history repeat itself?

KICK AT TACK



KICK OFF: Eric Tinkler has taken a lot of the flak from fans following Pirates' slow start to the season. But what has he done for the team since he took over from Vladimir Vermezovic, and what is the general view of Tinkler amongst the players?

THABO MATLABA: Tinkler has given players freedom to express themselves on the field. He is approachable, which makes everyone comfortable to work with him and he has given all the players a chance to play, which has created a happy environment in the team. There are no favours and we are all equal – if you do well at training, at least there is hope that you will play. The coach has also instilled a winning mentality. Tinkler hates losing and this has rubbed off on the players. He is also a great motivator. Even if we lose, he keeps encouraging and motivating us to do well in the next game. To be honest, he is a player's coach. He has played football at the highest level and has experience of communicating with players.

What message can you send to the Pirates supporters that have been vocal against Tinkler after the poor start?

The supporters must stop losing patience. Sometimes as players we must take the blame. It is unfair to blame the coach when we lose and give credit to players when we win. It is wrong! We are a team. When we lose, we lose as a team and when we win, we win as a team. I want to urge the supporters to rally behind the coach, the players and the whole team. They must give Tinkler a chance because he is a good coach.

You've struggled this season, and we haven't seen those piledriver shots we saw in the past ... do you feel injuries have played a major part?

Even though my performance has improved in the past few games, I still have not yet reached my best form. The injuries played a part, but also I have not been training the way I used to because the games are coming thick and fast. I normally train twice a day – with the team and on my own. But because we are now playing games Wednesdays and Saturdays, it has become impossible to train twice a day; I would be killing my body.

You always look good when going forward, and you have the pace to track back, but what about that final pass that is inconsistent?

We have had a chat with the coach about that, and



On target – Matlaba celebrates scoring a cracker for Bafana Bafana against Central African Republic

On the overlap



Thabo Matlaba likes nothing more than to bomb down the wing, cut inside and have a pop at goal. We list other like-minded wing-backs.

- Dani Alves – probably the most attack-minded right-back in world football, the Barcelona and Brazil defender wastes no time crossing the halfway line.
- Pablo Zabaleta – the Argentine is out of favour at the moment, but has been a key man in Manchester City's attacking play in recent years.
- Serge Aurier – PSG's beast of a wing-back is among the best of Ivory Coast's new generation.
- Cafu and Roberto Carlos – Brazil's awesome overlappers of a decade past (in fact, think of almost all Brazilian 'full-backs' from Carlos Alberto of 1970, Branco of 86-94, Maicon of 2010 to Marcelo today).
- South Africa has had its fair share of marauding wing-backs, none more exciting than two stars of the 1990s: Sam 'Ewie' Kambule of Sundowns and David 'Going Up' Nyathi who was part of Bafana Bafana's 1996 Nations Cup-winning squad. Other exciting wing-backs were Edward Motale, Lovers Mohlala and Bradley Carnell.

how to improve. I am working hard on it at training to improve the accuracy, pace and shape of my crosses, and there's an improvement. I really want to turn it into a strong aspect of my game.

Which would you say is the strongest aspect of your game – attacking or defending?

Attacking! I enjoy going forward more than defending. However, since I play as defender, it is important to carry both duties. I enjoy attacking from the back because there is a lot of space in front of me and enough space to make runs on the flank.

You struggle as a right-back, yet you can play with both feet?

My biggest problem is that I struggle with balance. If I have to play as right-back, I must have at least a week to prepare mentally.

You are making the starting line-up ahead of another equally good left-back, Patrick Phungwayo. How is the competition between you, and your relationship with him?

You wouldn't even think we are playing for the same position if you saw us together. It has been good – we are more like brothers. We talk about football, we talk about things outside football. When he has something happening at home, I go to support him. He also does the same for me. We are like a family at Pirates,

and players are united. We support each other irrespective of who is playing.

You were recently handed the captain's armband in the absence of Happy Jele and Oupa Manyisa, who were both out due to injuries. Do you harbour hopes of becoming the permanent captain at Pirates in the future?

To be honest, that's not on my mind. In fact, Happy Jele has just renewed his contract with Pirates and so has Oupa Manyisa. Lucky Lekgwathi is still around and training with the team. Both Jele and Manyisa are still going to be here for a long time, so it is not even on my mind to be captain one day.

It has been a year since Senzo Meyiwa passed away. Is this still on the minds of the players?

Yes, we still miss him very much. We still talk about him in the team. He used to call me 'Skhulu' and now the players

“ I am working hard to improve the accuracy, pace and shape of my crosses. ”

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all call me 'Skhulu' – especially Rooi Mahamutsa. We all know that Senzo was more than just a player at Pirates. We all know the contribution he made to this club. We will forever miss him.

There were rumours of you going to Mamelodi Sundowns and that you waited too long to sign a new contract with Pirates?

Yes it's true – Sundowns wanted me. They were putting pressure on me. But as a player there are things you need to consider before you make that sort of decision. It took almost a month negotiating with Pirates – you know how negotiations can take time. They make an offer, you make a counter-offer ... it takes time to agree on the figures. I am happy that at the end we reached common ground with Pirates. I can almost say the club gave me what I wanted.

Pirates have been playing well in Africa, but have struggled with domestic football. Can you explain why?

There are many factors. Other teams always ill-treat us when we play with



► **Full name:** Thabo Matlaba ► **Born:** 13/12/87 in Tembisa ► **Previous teams:** Leicester City (amateur), Mighty Tigers (Third Division), M Tigers (Second Division), Free State Stars ► **PSL debut:** Free State Stars 0 Santos FC 0 (28/8/10) ► **First PSL goal:** Free State Stars 2 Mamelodi Sundowns 1 (19/2/11) ► **Pirates debut:** Orlando Pirates 1 Maritzburg United 0 (26/2/12) ► **First Pirates goal:** Bloemfontein Celtic 3 Orlando Pirates 3 (4/11/12, Telkom Knockout) ► **International debut:** Tanzania 0 South Africa 1 (14/5/11, Friendly, as a sub) ► **Full International debut:** South Africa 3 Malawi 1 (22/12/12, Friendly) ► **First international goal:** South Africa 2 Central Africa Republic 0 (23/3/13, World Cup qualifier) ► **Honours:** 23 international caps (1 goal); 2011/12 Absa Premiership winner; 2013/14 Nedbank Cup winner

Career history:

SEASON	CLUB	MATCHES	GOALS
10/11	Free State Stars	31	3
11/12	Free State Stars	5 (+1 sub)	0
	Orlando Pirates	15	0
12/13	Orlando Pirates	30	2
13/14	Orlando Pirates	43 (+2 sub)	4
14/15	Orlando Pirates	26 (+1 sub)	2
15/16	Orlando Pirates	9	0
TOTALS		159	11

Correct as at 12/11/15. League and cup matches only. Charity games and friendlies not included.

them in Africa, from the airport to the stadium! This then pushes us and inspires us to go all out to fight against them on the field. I must say, in South Africa

we still have 'Ubuntu'. We always treat them well when they come play here. There is also less pressure from our own supporters when we play away. We are not afraid to make mistakes. The experience that we gained during the Champions League in 2013 has helped us a lot. It built our mental strength. Yes, it's true we did not start very well in the domestic season, and I believe this was one of worst starts in the history of Pirates. We needed that win against Kaizer Chiefs [in the League] to turn things around. The win against Chiefs has done a lot in terms of boosting our confidence.

What have you gained playing in CAF competition?

Mental strength! If you are not fit mentally, you won't survive in Africa. I said it earlier about the treatment you get from the teams we play against.

That hostile environment has helped us develop strong character. It has also brought unity in the team. We are more unified: you can see when we do the battle in Africa, we are more united both on and off the field. **KO**

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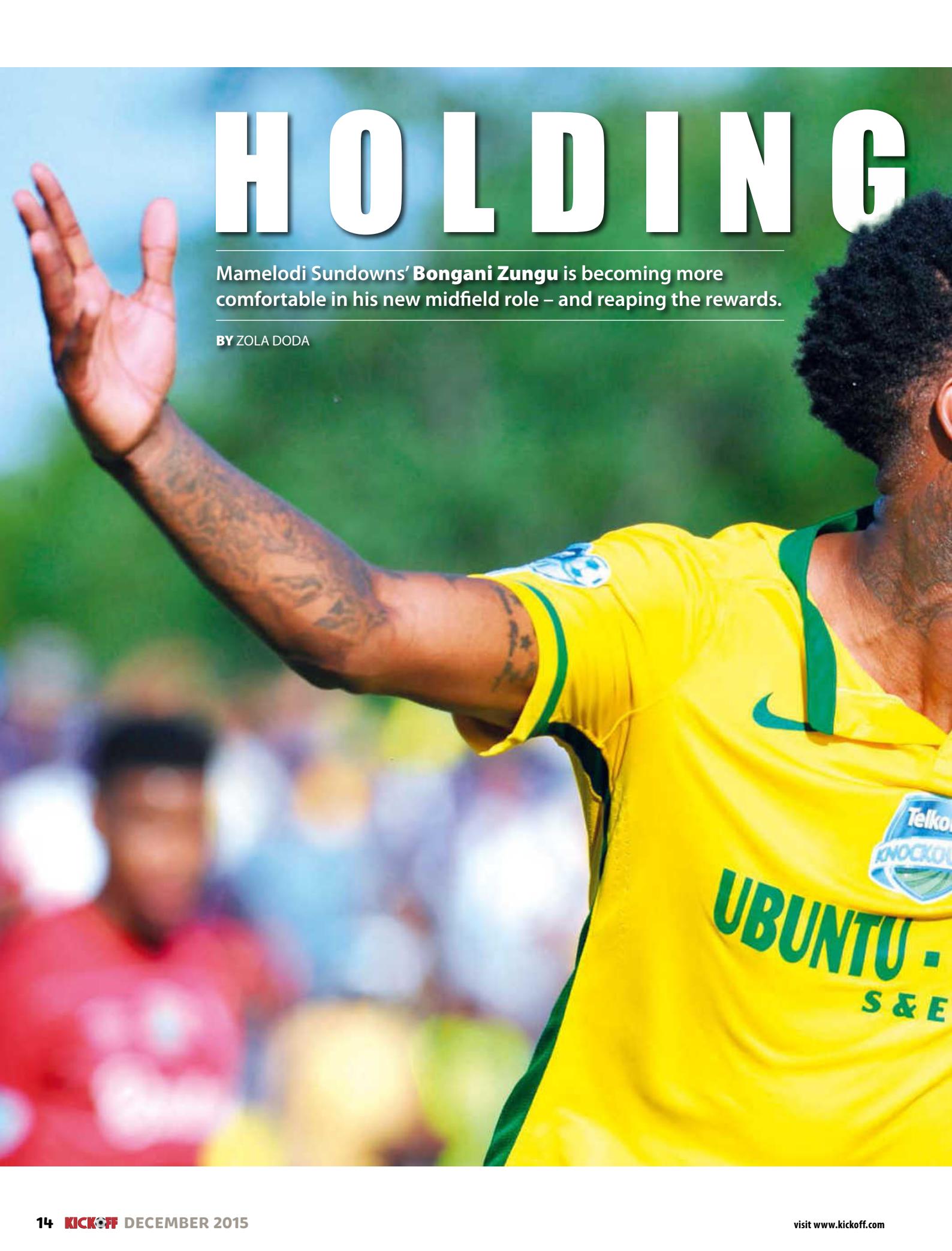
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HOLDING

A dynamic photograph of a soccer player in mid-action. He is wearing a yellow jersey with green trim and a green collar. The word 'UBUNTU.' is printed in large green letters across the chest, with 'S & E' in smaller letters below it. A green Nike swoosh is on the right shoulder. On the left shoulder, there is a logo for 'Telkom KNOCKOUT' featuring a blue and green shield. The player has a tattooed arm, with a large tattoo visible on his bicep and forearm. He is holding his right hand up in a gesture, possibly signaling to a referee or celebrating. The background is blurred, showing other players and a stadium.

Mamelodi Sundowns' **Bongani Zungu** is becoming more comfortable in his new midfield role – and reaping the rewards.

BY ZOLA DODA

HIS OWN



KICK OFF: Bongani, it has been a great start to the season for you, and there is already talk that you might move overseas as early as next year.

BONGANI ZUNGU: Ja, thanks man. This season has been really good. When I joined Sundowns I was playing as an offensive midfielder and the coach [Pitso Mosimane] converted me to a holding midfielder. Last season I was finding my feet in my new position and it's only now that I'm reaping the rewards. I've been doing well and handling this position well and learning a few things. I'm also taking that form and experience to Bafana Bafana, which is a great thing. So things are good so far, but it could be better.

What are the fundamental differences between the two positions?

As a holding midfielder you play more under pressure and sometimes you collect

the ball at the back between the lines. Technically and tactically I'm very sound – that I know – but my biggest weakness is that I'm not the quickest player. You run a lot in that position.

But your game is maturing, we saw that when Bafana Bafana played Costa Rica ...

It's all about being calm and relaxed. I would say that is my strong point as a person, especially on the field. I don't get intimidated regardless of which opponents we play against. Against Costa Rica, we were playing against a good team and we just wanted to get hold of the ball – we did and controlled it. From the hotel to the stadium I was at ease, even during the warm-up. During the match things were going well and my touches were good.

Describe your combination with Thulani Serero and Andile Jali.

We speak a lot and emphasise that when one of us gets the ball we need to create passing lines; Andile and Thulani have more experience and they understand things better. Every time I get the ball, Andile is the first person I look for and start the move by passing to him – I always bring him into the game because he makes things happen and he does the same when he gets the ball. Thulani is a very good player, especially between the opponent's defence and midfield. You can pass him the ball anytime; he is always in threatening positions. Even when we lose the ball we are quick to regroup because our understanding is great.

What is stopping Bafana from playing football the way you did against Costa Rica?

I think the difference when you play against developed countries is that you don't have hotel problems or off-the-field problems, and that helps you focus on the match. I'm not making excuses about how we play in Africa – in developed countries you find good grounds and everything is good and that has a very good impact on the game. But we are starting to gel and we have a lot of experience from the trip to central America.

At club level you have already been suspended twice this season. What is the reason for that?

I think one of my weaknesses – and something I need to improve – is to stop throwing myself into tackles. I do that thinking I will win every ball and I need to be smarter than that. Against Golden Arrows I was disappointed to get a red card after two yellow cards – for the second yellow card I was late into a tackle.

In the past two seasons, Sundowns won the League and the Nedbank Cup. What is the priority this season?

Our target is to win every game. We had already lost in the MTN8; we are doing well in the Telkom Knockout and we need to win the Nedbank Cup and the League. There is also a matter of the CAF Champions League ... I'm at a club where second best is not enough. We have to go all out for everything.

So your targets are on track?

I would say so. We have new players who are trying to fit into the system. They've been working hard to understand how we play and operate and so far we've been good. At Sundowns we have to win every match; there is no excuse and even

Zungu cuts a frustrated figure as he is sent off in a 2-1 loss to Golden Arrows



when we draw you can see players are not happy. Pressure is there from supporters and from the team because you have to perform otherwise there is another player ready to take your place. Opponents are also motivated, but we tell ourselves that talent alone is not enough.

In the past two seasons it was always about Sundowns and Kaizer Chiefs but now Bidvest Wits are a threat. How does that make you feel?

It's good because football is about competing and when you walk over opponents, you don't improve. So it's good to have teams like Wits because they have quality players and it's good to have more than three teams challenging for the League. It's good for South African football as well.

There were talks that you were linked with Vitoria de Guimaraes in Portugal. How close are you from moving?

Yes, I want to play overseas. That is on my mind and I'm clear about that. Every day I see myself being one of the best

overseas and my mind is set on going to Europe.

The deal almost happened in the last transfer window, but fell through...

It's true, they've been interested since March and they put in an offer. But I'm still contracted to Sundowns so that is not my call. They made an offer to Sundowns and their boss came here to meet Patrice [Motsepe], they spoke and I don't know what happened after that. But they are patient and looking to bring me on board. Until then, my focus is on Sundowns and to help the team win the title.

Where would you like to play in Europe?

I want to play in the Champions League against the best players. I dream about playing against Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Manchester United. And if there is one country I would love to play in, it has to be Spain. The Spanish play football on the ground; they are patient and don't panic. They don't change how they play football.

Why do you think there are so few South African players overseas?

Sometimes it's a personal choice from players, sometimes it's management, sometimes players get good deals locally ➤

“ I throw myself into tackles thinking I will win every ball and I need to be smarter than that. ”



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Despite his good start to the season, Zungu is always looking to improve

and won't move. There is no single reason – sometimes players have quality but don't get offers.

Looking at your career, are you happy with what you have achieved so far?

I'm happy because I have just turned 23. I have very good people around me that I talk to – family, friends and my girlfriend – and they are advising me about life.

People think being a footballer is easy; you go to training from 9am until lunchtime; play a match and get paid lots of money. What do you think is the most difficult aspect of being a footballer?

The biggest challenge is what happens or what you do between lunchtime and the time when you go to bed. That is the downfall for lots of players. You have money, a car and a house – so what you do in this period is key. If a player can learn how to organise their lives during this time, things will be better.

What is the best thing to do in this time?

There are players that study, some spend time with families and some do business on the side. But the key thing is to have something to do during this time. Just be a good boy.

What has been your most memorable match for Sundowns so far?

Wow. I've played a lot of memorable

matches. In my first season I played against University of Pretoria and it was very emotional because I joined from them. Last season we played against Chiefs and I played a great match.

Who has been your most difficult opponent?

Oupa Manyisa. He is very tricky, sometimes he is here and the next minute there. You think about following him ... eish ... next minute he pops up somewhere else. He is such a tricky player. Then there is Reneilwe Letsholonyane who is a tough player, but we are all friends off

the field. Every time I see Oupa, I always greet him and say, 'How are you grootman?'. We talk about football and life in general.

At Sundowns, who do you speak to if you want advice about something?

There are lots of amazing guys – there is Ramahlwe Mphahlele, who is a good friend, and Surprise Moriri. I talk to them about personal things and they are never judgmental. They advise me and give me peace of mind.

What are you planning to do during these December holidays?

To be honest with you I haven't planned anything. I'm not someone who goes on vacation, I don't go overseas for holidays – I'm not like that, even my girlfriend can tell you. People don't really know much about me and that's because I don't share a lot of my personal issues. I'm very reserved as a person, and people judge based on what they see – and sometimes they are wrong.

What message do you have for Sundowns supporters?

Well, they are wonderful fans and always supportive, they must keep on supporting us. For me whatever happens, whether I stay or not, they will always be my family. **KO**



► **Full name:** Bongani Zungu ► **Born:** 9/10/92 in Duduza ► **Source:** Inter Milan FC ► **Previous clubs:** Dixieland Stars ► **PSL debut:** University of Pretoria 0 SuperSport United 0 (as a sub, 1/9/12)

► **Full debut:** Moroka Swallows 2 University of Pretoria 3 (14/9/12) ► **First PSL goal:** University of Pretoria 1 Orlando Pirates 3 (7/10/12) ► **International debut:** South Africa 2 Burkina Faso 0 (Friendly, 17/8/13) ► **First international goal:** Swaziland 0 South Africa 3 (Friendly, 15/11/13) ► **Honours:** 18 international caps (3 goals); 2013/14 PSL champion; 14/15 Nedbank Cup winner

Career record

SEASON	CLUB	MATCHES	GOALS
11/12	Dynamos (Div 1)	no records available	
12/13	Univ Pretoria	20 (+7 subs)	7
13/14	Mamelodi Sundowns	22 (+4 subs)	1
14/15	Mamelodi Sundowns	25 (+8 subs)	0
15/16	Mamelodi Sundowns	9	2
TOTALS		76	10

Correct as at 13/11/2015. League and cup games only. Friendlies and charity matches not included.

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DERBY KING

KAIZER Chiefs captain Siphiwe Tshabalala took his already legendary status to new heights in his team's Telkom Knockout semi-final victory over Orlando Pirates by becoming the first player to make 25 appearances in the Soweto Derby in the modern day PSL.

Even more remarkable is that 'Shabba' reached this milestone without having missed a single Derby since making his debut in the 2-2 draw played in Durban on 24 November 2007. In total, the midfield maestro has made 24 starts and one substitute appearance in Derby fixtures – his only sub coming in last year's MTN8 Final.

Shabba has been on the winning side for Chiefs eight times, drawn 10 and lost seven, and he's scored four goals in the historic fixture. No longer just

the name most people remember from the 2010 Fifa World Cup, Shabba has now created another benchmark in South African football history.

Behind Shabba is Orlando Pirates' veteran defender Lucky Lekgwathi on 22 Derby appearances, but he is unlikely to add to his tally given that he has not played any football for the past 18 months.

The 39-year-old has been with Pirates since 2002 with his Derby appearances scattered over a longer period, while he has also missed a number of Derbies along the way.

Tshabalala also remains the most capped active player for Bafana Bafana with 88 appearances. He is second overall on this list, behind retired defender Aaron Mokoena on 107 caps.

By Lovemore Moyo



INTRODUCING ➔ Frederic Nsabiyumva (Jomo Cosmos)

Ezenkhosi's skipper enjoying life in the PSL

PREMIERSHIP returnees Jomo Cosmos have conceded the fewest goals of all clubs just past the quarter-mark of the current League campaign.

Much of their defensive strength can be attributed to Burundian defender Frederic Nsabiyumva, who has also been captaining the side.

"The PSL has been tough, yet smooth and enjoyable compared to the NFD where I played when I first arrived in South Africa last year," Nsabiyumva says.

"The NFD was all about running, with less thought given to tactics. The PSL is more about tactical discipline, patient build-ups and punishing opponents when they make mistakes, which helps you improve."

Nsabiyumva was initially spotted by Jomo Sono at the 2013 Cecafa Cup and then evaluated further at the 2014 Chan finals. He joined Cosmos towards the end of the 2013/14 season, featuring in five matches.

"I never came for trials. 'Bra J' was happy with what he had seen of me in the national team and made me an offer which I accepted, although my debut was delayed as I had to wait for my work permit," Nsabiyumva says.

"Initially it was difficult joining a team in the second tier when I had been playing in the top league back home. Luckily, the football is good and the teams pay better, plus with my mentality I can cope with any conditions," he adds.

Prior to that, the 20-year-old played for Athletico Olympic and

Vital'0 FC in Burundi, and had already been for trials at Moroka Swallows and SuperSport United in 2012, before eventually joining Cosmos.

Now settled with the PSL newcomers, Nsabiyumva wants to ensure relegation is not part of their vocabulary come end of the season.

"Firstly, being captain is all down to my discipline plus the fact that I was the vice-captain last season," he says. "I have also been preaching to my teammates that we need to keep it solid at the back."

"I can safely say that we will not be getting relegated – I know some people don't believe in us, but you need to believe in yourself before anyone else starts believing in you."

By Lovemore Moyo





for the record

Ajax Cape Town

► Zambian midfielder Clifford Mulenga – who left the club after the non-renewal of his contract at the end of June – has won the title back home with ZESCO United.
► The club is showing interest in Ghana defender Lawrence Lartey.

Bidvest Wits

► English striker James Keene – who tried out at Kaizer Chiefs last season – is being assessed by the club. They already have five foreigners on their books, though Malawian midfielder Gerald Phiri is yet to be registered.

Chippa United

► Bennett Chenene is still training with the club almost a month since he arrived as a free agent.
► Former captain Andile Mbenyane has returned to training following a two month spell away due to a family bereavement.

Golden Arrows

► Namibian winger Deon Hotto is expected to complete the season with Arrows before the club considers the various enquiries about his services.

Jomo Cosmos

► Kenyan forward Michael Olunga is due to start training with the squad before the Christmas break. Olunga is on loan at Kenyan Premier League champions Gor Mahia from Liberty Academy.

Free State Stars

► The club's MultiChoice Diski Challenge team captain Justice Chabalala has been promoted to the first team.
► Belgian forward Andrea Fillicia has undergone a minor operation to his nose.

Kaizer Chiefs

► Injured striker David Zulu will have to move mountains to be considered for the first

team when he recovers from his injury as he is apparently not a preferred attacking option at the club.

Mamelodi Sundowns

► Indications are that Thabiso Kutumela (see page 23) is a target for next season following his goalscoring form at Baroka.
► Zimbabwean striker Nyasha Mushekwi is keen on moving away from the club in January when his contract enters its last six months. Mushekwi has PSL suitors while there are several foreign clubs also eying him. He has been on the sidelines since returning from a loan spell with Djurgarden IF in Sweden.
► Also due to move out in January are Zambians Mukuka Mulenga and Hichani Himoonde, as well as Belgian goalkeeper Glenn Verbauwheide.
► Zambian goalkeeper Kennedy Mweene escaped unhurt from a recent motor vehicle accident, with his car written off in a collision with a truck.

Mpumalanga Black Aces

► The club intends to offer striker Collins Mbesuma – who won the last Absa Premiership Player of the Month award – a new two-year contract in June.

Orlando Pirates

► Whispers within the club are that Lucky Lekgwathi will be slowly introduced into the club's development structures with a future in coaching most likely.
► Underutilised forward Tendai Ndoro has been encouraged to persevere as he battles to break into the first team.
► The club's four-year car sponsorship deal with Peugeot will not be renewed upon its expiry at the end of the year after the French company chose not to commit to a new agreement.

Platinum Stars

► Stocky forward Patrick Malokase – who retired at the end of last season – has ventured into electrical engineering after failing to land the team manager role he was linked with. Malokase is now a board member at ZondiSpace, an enterprise development initiative whose mother body is Safronics (Pty) Ltd.
► Former youth international Sibusiso Hadebe will leave upon the expiry of his three-year contract at the end of the season.
► Head coach Cavin Johnson was named the Absa Premiership Coach of the Month for September/October.

Polokwane City

► Brazilian goalkeeper coach Milton Nienov – who spent the past season with the club – has joined third tier club Super Eagles as technical advisor.
► Out of favour goalkeeper Dino Visser could leave in January, with his contract up at the end of the season.
► Veteran defender Elias Ngwepe remains in dispute with the club and his case is being handled by the Players' Union.

SuperSport United

► Youthful defender Jino Moeketsi, who is currently out on loan at Vasco da Gama, could have his loan spell cut short and return to his parent following disciplinary problems at the Cape Town club.

University of Pretoria

► Club assistant coach Sly Mosala is evidently on his way out after clashing with management in the period following Sammy Troughton's red card against Ajax Cape Town, which then led to a match ban. Rumour has it that Mosala felt belittled that Varsity League coach Evangelos Vellios was brought into to take charge in the absence of Troughton.

Dikwena unearthing Botswana's talent

PLATINUM Stars are set to benefit significantly from their formal relationship with Botswana Premier League (BPL) side Jwaneng Galaxy, with the arrangement allowing Dikwena first option on any player being sold by the club to a team outside the country.

In 2012 the North West-based team scored big when they signed Botswana international Mogakolodi Ngole from Township Rollers, and they look set to tap into similar resources in the country.

Galaxy chairman Njabulo Gilika tells KICK OFF, "We have a relationship with Platinum Stars. We are also learning from them because they are a well-run professional club amongst other things."

Galaxy are a newly-formed side born out of a merger between Jwaneng Comets and Blue Diamonds in July 2014. They currently have three South African players on their books: Tshepo Borake, Israel Batsi and Vusimuzi Sibya.

By Austin Dithobolo



TOKYO Sexwale might not have had much to do with South African football, save for participation in the upper structures of the World Cup bid and later tournament organisation, but he will write his own piece of history as the first from the country to bid for the biggest seat in world sport.

But whether the millionaire businessman has any chance in February when world football's controlling body Fifa decide on their next leader remains unclear as he emerges as something of a fringe candidate.

The fluidity of the situation at Fifa, plus the Machiavellian machinations behind the scenes ahead of the ballot suggests there might still be plentiful changes before the 209 members gather for the elections on February 26 at the 'Messe Halle' in Zurich, the same venue where South Africa won the right to host the 2010 World Cup finals.

By then Sexwale could either have slipped off the ballot paper altogether or emerged as a clever compromise candidate amid a continuing turbulent time as revelations of past corruption seep to the surface almost each passing day.

Already dropped as candidates for the presidency are Uefa chief Michel Platini, who is serving a 90-day suspension handed down in early October, and the egoistic Liberian, Musa Hassan Bility.

This leaves five candidates:

THE PRINCE

Ali ben Al Hussein (39 years, Jordan)
Member of the royal family and president of his country's football association. He has the profile of being the anti-Blatter candidate at the last Fifa election on May 29 where he surprised by garnering 73 votes to the ageing Swiss. But this time the prince does not have the support of Uefa, who helped bankroll his last bid, nor that of his own confederation, Asia.

CAN TOKYO GO ALL THE WAY?

Sexwale with Blatter during the build-up to the 2010 World Cup finals



THE UNKNOWN

Jerome Champagne (57 years, France)
A former diplomat, he was the international 'consigliere' to Blatter from after the 1998 World Cup to 2010, eventually given the title deputy general secretary before leaving. He was close to Blatter, but anti-Platini and has been a sniping voice from the sidelines since, although for the last election could not get on the ballot because he did not get the minimum five nominations he has received now. He is a fan of St Etienne.

THE POTENTIAL SURPRISE

Tokyo Sexwale (62 years, South Africa)
First premier of Gauteng and later a minister in Jacob

Zuma's first cabinet, who has made a fortune as a well-connected businessman. His time on Robben Island with Nelson Mandela gives him a massive international calling card, but involvement with the 2010 South African World Cup Board might count against him as the 'donation' to Jack Warner is investigated more thoroughly.

THE FIRM FOOT

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa (49 years, Bahrain)
A member of Bahrain's royal family and, since 2013, president of the Asian Football Confederation and therefore also a Fifa vice president. His family are responsible for

much repression in the Gulf State of the majority Shi'a population who want more democracy after decades of rule by the Sunni royal family. Riots in 2011 led to the arrest of several members of the national football team.

THE PLAN-B

Gianni Infantino (45 years, Switzerland)
A lawyer by profession and former secretary general of CIES, the sports studies university, he has worked at Uefa since 2000 and is Platini's right-hand man. He is the alternative for the Europeans with Platini not allowed to stand, but is seen as something of a lightweight.

By Mark Gleeson

Lack of depth



OWEN da Gama's Under-23 squad that is preparing for Olympic qualifiers has nowhere near the level of experience enjoyed by Shakes Mashaba's AmaGlug-glug team that competed at the 2000 Olympics.

Of the 'Class of 2015', only 12 have experience in the PSL and of that dozen, only Keagan Dolly (55 matches), Abbubaker Mobara (50), Kwanda Mngonyama (30), Deolin Mekoa (18) and Riyaad Norodien (12) are in double figures.

Compare that to 2000, where every player had made a name for themselves in the top flight, with the lowest number of starts credited to 19-year-old Aaron Mokoena – of Ajax Amsterdam.

Jabu Pule had just 17 starts for Kaizer Chiefs but at the other end of the scale, David Kannemeyer, Stanton Fredericks, Matthew Booth and Steve Lekoele had all notched up over 100 matches in the PSL, while Emile Baron (Lillestrom), Quinton Fortune (Manchester United), Delron Buckley (Bochum) and Benni McCarthy (Celta Vigo) had established themselves in Europe.

Even stand-by players Lebohang Kukame (49), Mzunani Mgwigwi (46), Patrick Mbuthu (56) and Rowen Fernandez (36) were well experienced.

In addition, 10 of the squad had already been capped by Bafana Bafana.

Should South Africa qualify, one hopes more Premiership game-time will follow in the next nine months.

SPOTLIGHT |

Thabiso Kutumela (Baroka FC)

NAME: Thabiso Simon

Kutumela

NICKNAME: Messi

BORN: 3/7/93 in

Mokopane, Limpopo

LOVELIFE: Girlfriend

PREVIOUS CLUBS:

Modimolle Real Rovers,

Mokopane Academy,

Boyne Tigers (all

amateur)

CAR: None

CELLPHONE: i-phone 5

ON THE PITCH

Ten goals in 11 games is phenomenal by South African standards. What would you attribute that superb form to?

The fact that I have been injury-free this season has helped because I did pre-season with the team and have been ever-present. When you are playing every week your confidence always gets a boost. I am confident I will be able to maintain my form and end the season with 20 to 30 goals. I play as a number 10, so I float between the midfield and the guy playing as targetman. I like playing one-twos and making use of my pace to break defences.

You had trials at Ajax Cape Town a few years ago ...

That is true. I went there during the 2011/12 season and I impressed, but unfortunately the deal didn't come through. My club boss [Khurishi Mphahlele] and my parents were not comfortable with me being so far away from home at such an early age.

What would you prefer, gaining promotion with Baroka or joining a well-established PSL club?

I would rather be remembered for having scored the goals that helped Baroka win promotion to the PSL. Imagine the very first team that trains in the rural areas [Ga-Mphahlele] going on to the PSL. Wouldn't that make for some fairy-tale reading? I want to be part of that history.

Who has been the toughest opponent that you have played against?

There is one defender from Black



“ I want to be remembered for having scored the goals that helped Baroka win promotion. ”

Leopards who made life extremely difficult when we played a goalless draw this season. That guy – Ndou Thivhavhudzi – stuck to me like glue everywhere I went.

OFF THE PITCH

What kind of fashion taste do you have considering that you don't earn as much as PSL footballers?

I am into Diesel clothing. Actually, I should give credit to my brother for showing me the way with fashion because he has a fine taste in clothing. When you look good, even your confidence is up there.

What will you be doing during the festive season break?

Since I am a member of the ZCC, Christmas is for going to church with family. The famous Moria is not too far away from us after all. The festive season is really nothing spectacular for me but more about being with family. Do you remember the first time you flew?

It was the time when I flew for trials

with Ajax in 2011 and I was very uncomfortable – to be honest I was frightened, but I chose to be brave. I didn't enjoy the take-off and landing at all.

How many kids are you planning to have?

I think four will do for me, two boys and two girls, so that it is all balanced. So far I have a baby girl.

By Lovemore Moyo

ONE-TWOS

Kulula or

Mango?

Mango

Auditor or

Lawyer?

Auditor

AKA or

Cassper

Nyovest?

Cassper

Nyovest,

obvious!

Easter or

Christmas?

Christmas

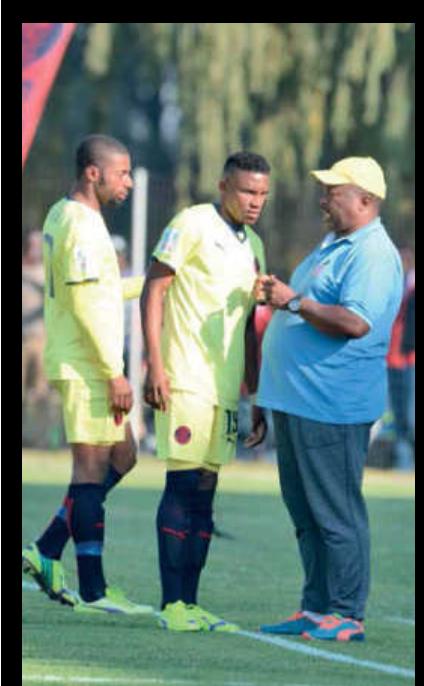
Skeem Sami

or Isibaya?

Skeem Sami



Demolition derby – FC Cape Town's Andile Khumalo battles for the ball with Mlungisi Mbunjana of Cape Town All Stars.



WORDS “My defender made it very difficult for us. You don’t do stupid things like that, the referee has already blown and has already given a ball to him and he is still hitting somebody with an elbow. I think his parents must speak to him.” – **Jomo Sono** on defender Thato Lingwati

Good month for ...

Bidvest Wits



The Clever Boys topped the PSL standings to win the Q-1 innovation prize.

Bad month for ...

Amajimbos



SA's juniors were knocked out of the U-17 World Cup after winning just one point in three group stage matches.



PALOOKAS



Platinum Stars' Siyabonga Zulu and Chippa United goalkeeper Veli Mothwa, who appeared before the PSL's Dispute Resolution Chamber after both being accused of signing contracts with more than one club.



PLAYMAKERS



Banyana Banyana, for qualifying for the Olympics for the second tournament in succession.

CHRIS RICCI/BACKPAGEPAP (1) LEFT: SHWABIGALLO IMAGES (1) JEFF WARREN/GALLO IMAGES (1) AFP PHOTO / PHOTOPRESS - DRAGOMIR YANKOV (1) LEFT: SHWABIGALLO IMAGES (1) PHILIP MAIA/GALLO IMAGES (1)

Also last month

- Ajax Cape Town defender Cecil Lolo tragically passes away in a car accident.
- Bafana Bafana finally win their first League games of the season.
- Leon Prins quits as director of National First Division club Moroka Swallows.
- Roger De Sa extends his contract as Ajax Cape Town head coach until 2018.
- Bafana Bafana are denied a spot at the 2016 Women's U-20 World Cup following a 1-0 defeat to Nigeria in their final qualifier.
- Former AmaZulu and Moroka Swallows coach Julio Leal takes over at Polokwane City.

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TOVEY: WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK

THE South African national Under-17s did not cover themselves in glory during the Fifa Junior World Cup in Chile, finishing fourth in a group from which three teams qualified, but Safa technical director Neil Tovey believes Amajimbos are “on the right track”.

Molefi Ntseki’s side finished at the bottom of Group E after a 2-1 defeat to Costa Rica, a 1-1 draw with North Korea and a 2-0 defeat to Russia.

“Before the tournament started my only concern was naivety,” Tovey says. “And my fears were confirmed when we conceded three penalties in three matches. To be fair, one of those penalties should not have been given, but nevertheless it was always going to be difficult to come back from that.

“Despite getting knocked out in the first round, I believe we are still on the right track.

The team went to the tournament and gained valuable experience and now they need to take that experience to the next level. That is the positive we can take out of this tournament.”

Before the tournament kicked off, Ntseki came under heavy criticism for not selecting Ajax Cape Town players despite the fact that the young Urban Warriors won the national U-17 Engen Champ of Champs Tournament. One of the criticisms is that the players were selected in Inter-Provincial, but Tovey dismisses that as “nonsense”.

“We scout our players from all over the country. Obviously this is a very difficult age group to select players from because none of them are playing in the PSL. So we have to visit them and watch them at their clubs and they also play tournaments.”

By Zola Doda

Bartlett backs Prince for Bafana return

WHILE on loan at Golden Arrows last season, Ajax Cape Town striker Prince Nxumalo enjoyed a good relationship with then-coach Shaun Bartlett. After suffering two epileptic seizures that kept him sidelined for two months, Nxumalo turned to Bartlett for support.

“Something I’ve incorporated in my coaching philosophy is to not only improve my team as better players, but as better humans, better men,” Bartlett says. “And I became part of my players’ lives so they always call me for advice or just to generally chat.

“I’ve been in contact with Prince even before his illness – I was part of the reason he joined Ajax, as Roger De Sa had called to ask what I thought, and I recommended him. I encourage Prince on a daily basis.”

The former Bafana frontman feels

Nxumalo’s epilepsy will not hamper the striker’s progress, as he has all the attributes of a complete centre forward.

“He’s got deceptive speed for his height, he’s got good aerial ability, he’s very strong and can shoot with both feet. Those are all great attributes, but you need to back them up with goals, which he did at the beginning of the season until he fell ill.”

Bartlett backs Nxumalo to play for the national team soon, after missing October’s friendlies due to his illness.

“When you have the quality and ability to score goals, you don’t lose it overnight. I think it’s inevitable he’ll return to Bafana – once he’s back on the field and proved himself again. He’s one of the bright prospects in this country.”

Turn to page 34 for more.

By Fabio De Dominicis

SECRETS OF THE STARS

10 things you did not know about Orlando Pirates midfielder Mpho Makola



1 Mpho Makola was in the Kaizer Chiefs Under-13, -15 and -17 youth teams alongside Itumeleng Khune.

2 Makola was born and raised in the township of Alexandra, and attended Yeoville Community Primary and Barnato Park High School.

3 Mpho was an all-rounder as a kid and received a sports bursary that put him through high school.

4 After leaving Chiefs, Makola joined Africa Soccer Development (ASD) Academy, where he played alongside Oupa Manyisa, Patrick Phungwayo, Ntsikelelo Nyaiza and Lehlogonolo Masalesa.

5 Makola earned R900 per month playing in the NFD for Vaal Tech. Black Aces’ Tshidiso Tukane was a teammate.

6 At one stage, Mpho hung around thugs, tried drugs and

almost got involved with a hijacking syndicate, but his mother made sure he continued playing football and that saved him.

7 The 29-year old is the first born of six siblings, and grew up with his mom as a single parent.

8 Makola has been the main breadwinner in his family, and took up the responsibility of buying groceries at the age of 15.

9 After signing his first professional contract with Free State Stars in 2008, he bought his first car, a Volkswagen Polo 1.9TDi.

10 Makola runs an annual football festival in Mpumalanga, which he funds out of his own pocket, with his sponsor Puma providing kit and match balls.

By Chad Klate



REST IN PEACE Cecil Lolo

AJAX'S VERSATILE WARRIOR HONOURED

ACCORDING to Ajax Cape Town players, and former club administrator Thabiso 'Shooz' Mekuto, two words best suited to describe the late Cecil Lolo are: 'sacrifice' and 'character'.

Sacrifice and character are what drove the 27-year-old's career from Khayelitsha – where he started playing football – until the day he died in a car accident in the early hours of Sunday, 25 October.

"Lolo was full of character and made sacrifices throughout his career without complaining," Mekuto says. "Every club has a character that brings life to the dressing room and at Ajax Cape Town we had Cecil Lolo. He was full of energy and full of action. He was one of those players who stood up and said whatever needed to be said when the dressing room was down.

"He came from the Eastern Cape and grew up in Khayelitsha, where he had to fight for everything and that is one of the things that built his character."

Lolo was born in Centani, in the then Transkei, before moving to Khayelitsha where he started playing football as a striker. After joining the Ajax academy, Lolo was later promoted to the club's Under-19 side, campaigning in the Vodacom Second Division.

A season later he was loaned out to First Division side Ikapa Sporting, returning to Ajax for the 2010/11 season where, under Foppe de Haan, his career blossomed.



"When Lolo was loaned out to Ikapa, unlike other players he didn't complain. He went there with a fighting attitude," Mekuto says.

"He was that kind of a character. He joined our youth and played in the Second Division and he changed from striker to midfield. Foppe de Haan converted him to right-back because of his ability to attack and protect the ball. And the rest is history."

Under current Ajax coach Roger De Sa, Lolo was an integral member of the team, and in September helped the club win the MTN8, beating Kaizer Chiefs in the Final.

"He was a kid who was at the club for a long, long time and knew the culture of the club very well," De Sa says.

"He came through very dif-

ficult personal circumstances growing up, and then breaking through at Ajax was also difficult for him.

"When I arrived at the club, he was a bit of a fringe player, and behind Nazeer Allie at right-back. That's when I started using him in other positions as I felt that he would be wasted if he did not play. For a few games we used him as a striker, and he scored!"

"We used him as a right-winger sometimes, and I even used him as a midfielder ... he was a fantastic go-to man with a fantastic character. He was the lead singer in the change-room, and always had a smile – you could always crack a joke with him," De Sa continues.

"Whether he was in or out of the squad, in the starting 11 or not, he wouldn't change. He

was a fantastic teammate, and will be missed in many, many ways ... it's a bigger loss than just the number 21 jersey on the field ... it's a massive loss to everyone."

For club captain Travis Graham it is going to be tough not seeing Lolo around.

"We will always have him in our thoughts, Graham says. "He played a huge role in the side. Not many people will have seen this, but he's the guy that always led the team and brought the spirits up, because his presence there was a huge positive for us – when we went out on the field, we felt comfortable and confident, and he was the one that made us feel that way."

By Zola Doda and
Fabio De Dominicis



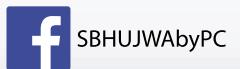
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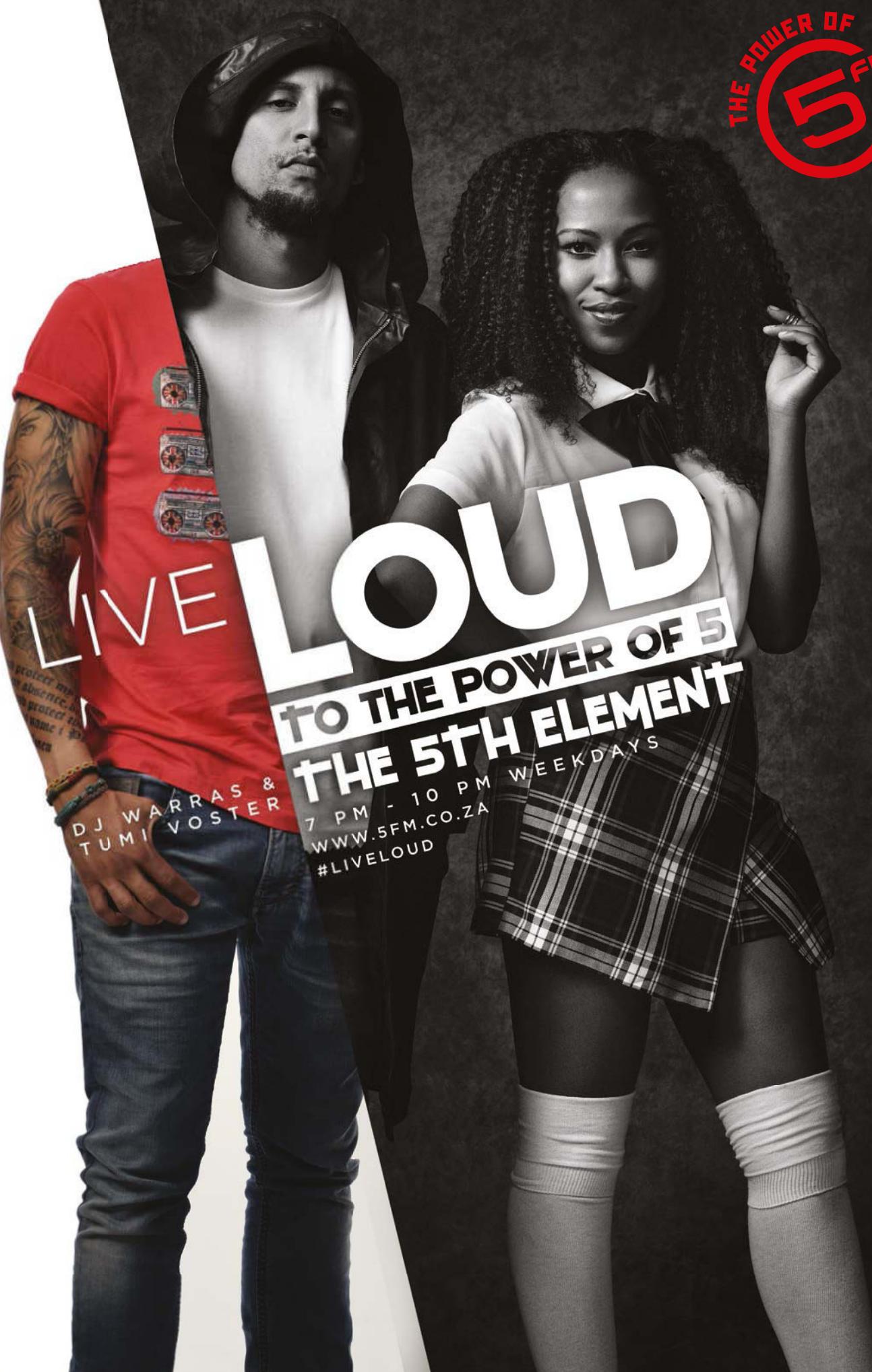


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NSL HISTORY

1986

The coaching merry-go-round continues

Nine coaching changes in six months, as Kaizer Chiefs win the first Charity Spectacular

JAN 6 1986 Joe Frickleton starts training with his new club Wits University after taking over as coach for the new season.

JAN 10 The NSL transfer fee record is broken as Mamelodi Sundowns pay R40 000 for Mike Mangena from champions Bush Bucks. They also sign Mike Ntombela from Wits. Andy Geddes returns to Wits after a spell with Kaizer Chiefs.

JAN 18 The first-ever Charity Spectacular is hosted in front of a capacity crowd at Ellis Park with Kaizer Chiefs beating Moroka Swallows 2-1 in the first semi-final and Bloemfontein Celtic beating Jomo Cosmos 2-0 in the second game. Tickets cost R4, with all the money going to Operation Hunger. A goal three minutes into extra-time from Ricky Phuka gives Chiefs a 1-0 win over Celtic in the Final, and Ted Dumitru his first trophy in South Africa.



JAN 21 Clive Barker resigns as coach of champions Bush Bucks to take over at AmaZulu.

JAN 22 Orlando Pirates appoint Charles Segale as their coach, taking over from Phil Setshedi. His brother Bennie is already in charge at Sundowns.

JAN 28 Ian Towers quits as coach of Hellenic after a row with new chairman George Hadjidakis.

JAN 31 Chiefs defender Garth Allardice follows coach Joe Frickleton to Wits.

FEB 8 Ernest Chirwali from Bloemfontein Celtic is named as 1985 Footballer of the Year, just edging Mike Mangena.

FEB 9 Big spending Sundowns field five debutants: Mike Anderson, Mike Mangena, Pitso Mosimane, Mike Ntombela and William Zondi all face champions Bush Bucks, but go down 2-1 at home. Newly promoted Klerksdorp City beat Witbank Aces 4-1 in their first match.

FEB 10 Mario Tuani quits as coach of Swallows, leaving Rodney Bush to take over.

FEB 25 Witbank Aces suspend six players who abscond from the club after they lose their first three League games.

MARCH 12 Kevin Mudie and Neil Tovey ask Durban City to put them on the transfer list.

MARCH 16 AmaZulu make it five wins out of five as they beat Fairway Stars 5-0.



MARCH 23 Calvin Petersen scores all the goals as Bush Bucks beat Pretoria Callies 5-0.

MARCH 30 Wits end AmaZulu's unbeaten record with a 3-2 win at Milpark, leading 3-0 at the interval, and Rangers go top after a 1-1 draw with champions Bush Bucks in Umlazi. Hellenic beat Klerksdorp City 7-0.

APR 4 New signing Neil Tovey scores as AmaZulu come from behind to end Arcadia's unbeaten run, with a 2-1 win in Durban.

APR 9 Log leaders Rangers sign 20-year-old striker Ian Palmer.

APR 11 African Wanderers refuse to start the game against Rangers because captain Dees Abdul has allegedly 'lost' his way to the ground. The match only starts when referee Errol Sweeney threatens to abandon the tie in favour of Rangers.

APR 13 Bottom of the log Aces end Chiefs' unbeaten run with a 1-0 win in Orkney, Eric Maele scoring the goal.

APR 17 Sundowns equal the record transfer fee by paying R40 000 to Arcadia for defender John Salter.

APR 20 Rodney Charles marks his return to the Swallows line-up from the United States with a ninth-minute header that starts a 7-0 rout of Klerksdorp City. Thomas Hlongwane grabs three.

APR 26 The NSL reports a net loss of R350 000 for the 1985 financial year at their AGM at Sun City. It is also revealed that the SABC paid R450 000 for the TV rights in 1985. Four new members are voted onto the management committee: Godfrey Gxowa, Raymond Hack, Coloured Passmore from Second Division Blackpool and John da Canha.

APR 29 Jingles Perriera is appointed as the new coach of Pirates, who have won just two of 11 League matches.

MAY 10 Sundowns' extravagant director Zola Mahobe takes all his players and their partners to London to watch the FA Cup Final, where Liverpool beat Everton 3-1. The Pretoria team also plays a 2-2 draw in a clandestine match against Crystal Palace Reserves in bitterly cold conditions.

MAY 10 Shane MacGregor's penalty gives Rangers a 1-0 win at Klerksdorp City and a seven point lead over second placed AmaZulu.

MAY 14 Brian Goldrick takes over from Joe Frickleton at Wits University after the Scotsman takes up an offer to become the general manager of the Bopsof League.

MAY 15 Swaziland bans four of their nationals competing in the Castle League for life: Absalom 'Scara' Thindwa and William Shongwe of Chiefs, Len Mashabela at Celtic and AmaZulu's Lucky Khoza.

MAY 27 Chiefs put Wellington Manyathi and Aaron Nkosi on the transfer list.

MAY 29 Joel 'Ace' Mnini approaches Swallows for a possible return to the club after 14 months in the rival NPSL. Ace Ntsoelengoe has already gone back to Chiefs and Jan Lechaba to Sundowns after their club Ace Mates folded.

JUNE 3 Terry Paine joins Witbank Aces as coach and immediately signs Peter Gordon and Coody Bentley from his previous team, amateurs Bedfordview. Five days later Paine's first game in charge sees Aces thump Hellenic 5-0.

JUNE 8 Pretoria Callies new owner Ricky Flynn is stabbed in the head and shoulder by supporters from his own club as they lose 3-6 to Bloemfontein Celtic. Flynn is admitted to intensive care, suffering from paralysis and brain damage. AmaZulu hammer Kaizer Chiefs 5-1 with Kevin Mudie getting two and Neil Tovey one. Sundowns enter the transfer market again, swapping Mike Mangena for Andries Chitja of Swallows.

JUNE 9 Dave Roberts quits as Celtic coach after contract talks break down.

JUNE 14 Durban City goalkeeper John Mackenna is injured when a bomb goes off at a Durban bar. He has 56 stitches in his face, but plays against Rangers six days later.

JUNE 21 17-year-old Zane Moosa debuts for Wits against Chiefs at Milpark and steals the show with his tricky feet, even drawing applause from Amakhosi fans. The game ends 1-1.

JUNE 25 George Matjila rejoins Arcadia on a free transfer from Aces, while veteran goalkeeper Patson Banda gets his clearance from Wanderers and signs for Swallows.

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BACK ON IT



Prince Nxumalo is confident he has overcome his medical issues and will be back to his best soon

A glazed, blank expression blankets the face of Prince Nxumalo, who is about to enter the pitch for his side's League clash against Mamelodi Sundowns. The Ajax players and staff realise it straight away. Coach Roger De Sa shouts for a stretcher. The medical staff hurry over, and the 25-year-old is rushed to hospital for the second time in a month.

"Everything was fine in the warm-ups, but then the guys said I was acting strange," Nxumalo recalls. "That's when they saw something wrong. Only they saw it – I felt fine.

"They took me straight to hospital before the game was about to start, and when I woke up, I was still dressed up, in my kit, with shin pads and everything – I was ready to play!" he says.

"And I said, 'What's happening?' But the doctors just said, 'Relax' ... then I knew something was wrong, again."

Nxumalo had suffered



► **Full name:** Mfanafuthi Prince Nxumalo ► **Born:** 18/5/90 in Umlazi ► **Source:** Khanya FC, Benfica FC ► **Previous clubs:**

Amaqhawe Academy ► **PSL debut:** SuperSport United 2 Ajax Cape Town 1 (19/12/12)

► **First PSL goal:** SuperSport United 2 Ajax Cape Town 1 (19/12/12) ► **Honours:** 14/15 NFD Winner; 14/15 Telkom knockout winner; 2015/16 MTN8 winner

Career history:

SEASON	CLUB	GAMES	GLS
10/11	FC Cape Town	7 (+2 subs)	0
11/12	FC Cape Town	no records available	
12/13	SuperSport Utd	6 (+4 subs)	2
13/14	SuperSport Utd	2 (+1 sub)	0
	FC Cape Town	13 (+1 sub)	7
14/15	SuperSport Utd	1 (+10 subs)	0
	Golden Arrows	6 (+11 subs)	4
15/16	Ajax Cape Town	5 (+1 sub)	3
Totals:		40	16

Correct as at 13/11/15. League and Cup matches only. Friendlies and Charity games not included.

RACK

another epileptic fit just weeks after the first attack, ahead of Ajax's MTN8 semi-final win over Bidvest Wits. That had been a huge shock, as he had never experienced any such symptoms in the past.

Epilepsy is a chronic disorder, the hallmark of which is recurrent, unprovoked seizures.

The seizures may be related to a brain injury or a family tendency, but often the cause is completely unknown.

"Even when I was young, it never happened," Nxumalo says. "The first time was at Milpark. When it happened, I didn't know anything afterwards. I remember waking up in the hospital after the game – I was like, 'Hawu?' I had no idea that so much time had passed.

"My family was shocked. They were asking so many questions. They are still worried, but I told them I'm alright now."

The talented forward, speaking after his first appearance in 70 days following a substitute cameo in a 2-1 loss to Orlando Pirates, insists he is slowly returning to his best.

"Even now, the doctors haven't been able to find anything wrong. I see different doctors and specialists, and every time I go, all of them say I am alright, that everything is normal and I can play.

"It's been very hard ... but the coach and the bosses have been very supportive, so have the players. I can see I am not alone in this."

Nxumalo had been in hot form, winning the August PSL Player of the Month with three goals in his first three matches for Ajax after joining from

SuperSport United. But after the epileptic attack, he missed out on the glory of defeating Kaizer Chiefs in the MTN8 Final, and had to pull out of South Africa's tour of Central America. He had received his first-ever national call-up just prior to suffering his first fit, so pulling out was a huge disappointment.

"I was so happy – I couldn't believe I received a call-up," he says. "I watched Bafana play ... it was so sad. I have never played for any national team at any junior level, so receiving that call-up was something else.

"I have to work hard now, and score more goals so they can call me up again."

Nxumalo is now on prescribed medication for his epilepsy, and insists his set-back will not deter him from giving maximum effort.

"I'm not afraid to give 100 percent, because I know if I get sick, Ajax are here to help me,"

Epileptic athletes

Thulasizwe 'Juju' Mbuyane – Former Orlando Pirates midfielder

Jonty Rhodes – Former South African international cricketer

Leon Legge – English footballer at Cambridge United

Dai Greene – Welsh hurdler

who has won gold at the Commonwealth, European and World Championships

Terry Marsh – Former English boxer who was undefeated in the IBF world light-welterweight division

Chanda Gunn – Canadian Olympic ice-hockey goalie who gave up swimming and surfing because of epilepsy

Despite a difficult few months for Ajax Cape Town's **Prince Nxumalo**, the striker remains upbeat as he seeks to replicate his early-season form.

BY FABIO DE DOMINICIS

he says. "So I have to give my all to them because they've given their support to me. I'm happy, because I have the support of my family, my team and my friends."

Ajax's coach is confident Nxumalo will overcome the illness in time.

"We've really pushed him at training to see if he copes," De Sa says. "Initially we had to keep a very close watch on him, and he's come through pretty well. The specialists are very happy with where he's at. He's taken well to the medication, and we can see the future is a lot brighter for him."

Nxumalo is grateful to De Sa: "The coach keeps reminding me that I am not the only one to have suffered this – many other athletes have epilepsy," he says.

"Roger always encourages me: if we doing shooting practice, even if I miss nine out of ten shots, he'll still say, 'You are the best!' to boost my confidence."

Fellow striker Nathan Paulse has been Ajax's go-to man for goals, enjoying a fine purple patch in Nxumalo's absence with six goals in seven matches, but Nxumalo is not threatened by this.

"At the beginning of the season, I was playing, and he kept encouraging me. Then I got sick and he was scoring goals. So I said to him, 'Hey, you're scoring!' to which he replied, 'You know why? Because of you! I know if I don't score, you'll come back and take my place!' So I get motivation from him, and he does the same from me!" **KO**

Second fit could have been avoided

PRINCE Nxumalo's second seizure may have occurred because he was not taking enough medication, nor was he taking it at the correct time.

"It's been quite complicated," Roger De Sa says. "The medication lasts a certain time, so the time he takes it to the time of the match is important.

"There are also side-effects – dizziness, heartburn, etc. Prince was taking the medication earlier, so it wouldn't affect him too much during the match, but unfortunately that meant it was very weak before the match, leading to a reoccurrence.

"The specialists have now changed the medication – Prince is now on a stronger medication for the specific epilepsy he has."

Dr Tshepo Molobi, the national Under-17 team doctor, who also conducts the players' medicals at University of Pretoria, explains that treatment differs for each case.

"It really varies – you have to look at a whole lot of things, and tailor-make it for that individual," he says.

Molobi explains there are various possibilities for the onset of an epileptic fit, with chances of such an incident high in sportsman.

"In many cases it's inherited, but is often caused by serious injuries to the head and damage to the brain.

"Sport is very physical and there is contact, so strenuous exertion and trauma to the head may trigger such seizures. Dehydration may also be a trigger," he says.

Molobi says there are different severities of epilepsy that determine to what extent a player may exert himself.

"As a sportsman, you would still have to be extremely cautious, and still attend sessions with a neurologist.

"They would grade the epilepsy based on their findings to determine whether or not a patient is fit enough to play. When you know the history and triggers of the particular patient, you can prescribe the correct medication – you cannot blanket a prognosis for everybody, it has to be tailor-made, factoring in age, diet, socio-economic status and nature of the sport.

"If it's well controlled, you can very cautiously allow someone to participate at the highest level," he says. "But it needs one to be extremely meticulous in follow-ups of the condition, and excluding trigger factors."

REYZA'S CH

Is it in **Reyaad Pieterse's** interests to sign a new contract if it means remaining third-choice at Kaizer Chiefs? asks Lovemore Moyo.

No matter the talent, there is no substitute for game-time. Kaizer Chiefs' third-choice goalkeeper Reyaad Pieterse, who will soon be out of contract, has plenty to think about in the coming months.

Young, polished, reliable, talented and blessed with height, Pieterse's situation raises the question: should he be content with staying on at Chiefs as effectively third choice behind Itumeleng Khune and highly-capable second choice Brilliant Khuzwayo?

The 23-year-old's contract is up at the end of June 2016, and with reported interest both domestically and from Europe, Pieterse has a tough decision to make. He has previously played at Shamrock Rovers in Ireland, and moving on to another local club would guarantee him more game-time than he is currently getting.

"We keepers are always fighting for that number one spot," Pieterse says. "We always want to be that guy who saves the team or helps the team claim victory. You never want to play second fiddle."

Word is that Pieterse has delayed contract talks with Chiefs as a way of buying time, with his heart set on a possible move to one of the Scandinavian countries where his characteristics – size, aerial command, presence, footwork, positioning, good attitude, bravery, decent distribution and safe hands – are highly sought after.

"With regards to my contract negotiations, I don't really want to get into that ... for now I am a Kaizer Chiefs player and I just want to do the best I can for this big brand," he says diplomatically.

But he admits: "I haven't signed a new contract ... I just want to see out my time here and if something better comes from overseas then I am willing to take it."

If nothing materialises overseas, Pieterse admits he'd rather stay where he is than move on locally. "I am at the best place in the country – going anywhere else locally wouldn't do justice to my career. Being at Chiefs has been wonderful, and if something happens here then I am willing to take it," he says.

Retired goalkeeper Eduan Naude of Forte Management, who represent Pieterse, confirms that they are not entertaining any local options, as a move back to Europe remains the prime target.

"We haven't renewed with Chiefs yet, but at the same time we haven't closed the door on Chiefs," Naude says. "What I have to make clear is that if Reyaad is not staying at Chiefs then he is not moving to any local club but heading back to Europe.

"He is very ambitious and having had a feel of Europe before, he does not want to take a step back in his career by moving from the best club in South Africa to another local club. His main objective is to go

overseas again and we will explore that option in finer detail. We will see what happens in January when he enters the last six months of his contract and pursue all options available.

"If something eventually happens during the January transfer window then I am sure Chiefs will want to cash in on him then rather than lose him for free when his contract expires. But no conclusive decision has been made yet with regards to Reyaad's future," Naude explains.

Based on what Pieterse has continued to show in training, it is evident that he has a firm head on his shoulders and hasn't disappointed whenever he has been given a chance ahead of Khune and Khuzwayo.

In his debut season (2013/14) Pieterse made his first appearance as a substitute against Polokwane City, keeping a clean sheet, and went on to start ten matches – mostly in continental club competitions – keeping another five clean sheets in the process.

Last season he had six starts and two



EF CONCERN



substitute appearances, keeping five clean sheets. And this season he has played five matches, keeping two clean sheets and conceding five goals, including three in the 5-3 thriller against Maritzburg United in the MTN8 quarter-final.

While he does not get as much game-time as he would like, Pieterse admits that the competition he faces from Khune and Khuzwayo helps improve his game

"When you are competing against Itu and Brilliant you know that they will bring their A-game, and you need to bring yours as well," he says. "It is always good fighting for the number one spot because you improve on a daily basis, as you know that the level of competition is higher and you need to maintain that. I learn on a daily basis from Khune and Brilliant.

"I am also learning all the time from our goalkeeping coaches Rainer Dinkelacker and Brian Baloyi. Coach Brian is still under the guidance of coach Rainer, so it's been very good and he is coming with some new ideas and is always trying to motivate and encourage us. We are always learning

from Brian, especially from his past experiences."

Beyond domestic action, Pieterse has also set his sights on Bafana Bafana.

"Game-time is what improves your chances of getting selected for the national team. If the coach calls me up to come and do the job, then I am willing to do so. I will relish the opportunity and try to grab it with both hands."

One area Chiefs have struggled with this season is in defence, with the hole left by the departure of Tefu Mashamaite creating structural weaknesses that Siyanda Xulu and Ivan Bukenya have yet to correct. But Pieterse insists it is just a matter of time before the problem is rectified.

"It is not a worry because a lot of new players have come in, and for them to gel it takes time. Once that happens then we will get our form back and concede less goals and get to where we were last season," Pieterse says. **KO**



► **Full name:** Reyaad Pieterse

► **Born:** 17/2/92 in Johannesburg

► **Previous clubs:** Bidvest Wits Juniors; BidBoys, Nike

Academy ► **PSL debut:** Kaizer Chiefs 4 Polokwane City 1 (27/11/13, as a sub) ► **Full debut:**

Platinum Stars 2 Kaizer Chiefs 0 (12/3/14)

► **Honours:** 12/13, 14/15 PSL winner; 12/13 Nedbank Cup winner; 14/15 MTN8 winner

Career history:

SEASON	CLUB	GAMES	GLS
11/12	Shamrock Rovers (IRE)	5	0
12/13	Kaizer Chiefs	did not play	
13/14	Kaizer Chiefs	10 (1 sub)	0
14/15	Kaizer Chiefs	6 (2 sub)	0
15/16	Kaizer Chiefs	5	0
Totals:		26	0

Correct as at 12/11/15. League and Cup matches only. Friendlies and charity games not included.

AUBREY MATHIBE – Patience the key

FORMER Kaizer Chiefs goalkeeper Aubrey Mathibe, who spent his entire career at the club as back-up to Brian Baloyi and Rowan Fernandez, feels Reyaad Pieterse must stay.

Now 35, and plying his trade with Moroka Swallows, Mathibe was at Chiefs from 2000-2006 and played just a single match in his time there.

"My honest advice to him is that if there is another local club that wants him I would say rather stay at Chiefs. I wouldn't know about overseas because I never played there and I don't know the conditions there, but I want to emphasise that if the interest is local and not from Orlando Pirates or possibly Mamelodi Sundowns, then he should just stay.

"Locally, it can never get better than Chiefs. He is 23, so if he signs another three years it will not hurt him because he will be 26 by the time his next contract expires which is still young for a goalkeeper," Mathibe advises.

"He needs to understand only a few lucky keepers – like Itu – can break through and play right away and go on to be stars. Others must wait, not because they are not good, but because they will blossom at a later stage. There is no guarantee that he will always remain on the bench if he signs a new contract. He must be positive – his attitude will be important, he will need to continue maintaining a good head instead of becoming ill-disciplined because he is not playing.

"Goalkeeping is such a delicate position because only one can play at a time. It really hurts having to sit on the bench, but you have to be patient and keep reminding yourself that to get to Chiefs it means you are the best," Mathibe adds. **KO**

“I WAS LIVING



THE DREAM”

Bongani Khumalo has returned to South African shores, joining his former team SuperSport United for a second stint after previously winning a hat-trick of Absa Premiership titles with the Tshwane side. The former Bafana Bafana skipper sits with KICK OFF's Chad Klate to talk through his English League experiences, a fruitless five years and the challenges of a decent upbringing.

Bongani Khumalo rose to prominence during his three years at SuperSport United, when he won three consecutive League titles and represented South Africa at the 2009 Fifa Confederations Cup and the 2010 World Cup. This earned him a move to English Premier League side Tottenham Hotspur, who have been in partnership with United's Youth Academy since 2007.

After signing a five-year contract with Spurs in 2010 Khumalo joined the London-based club in January 2011, but spent most of his time on loan at Preston North End, Reading, PAOK in Greece, Doncaster Rovers and Colchester United before returning to South Africa at the beginning of this season.

Upon his return to SuperSport the 28-year-old made his competitive debut in his side's 3-1 defeat to Bidvest Wits in the opening round of the MTN8, and faced criticism for his defensive display after allowing The Clever Boys to breach the backline on three occasions. He was then part of the team that suffered 4-1 and 3-1 League defeats to Kaizer Chiefs and Platinum Stars respectively. It was a tough return, but Khumalo is a fighter, and is relishing the challenge.

KICK OFF: Bongs, welcome back to the PSL. What have you made of your return so far, and how does it compare to your experiences in England?

BONGANI KHUMALO: It is obviously very different. The mentality and the style – it's all very, very different. In Europe, players are more tactically disciplined. Even in the Championship, the players have incredible technique. In the PSL, we tend to rely a lot on the individual – the speed, brilliant skill – but it's different everywhere you go in the world.

When I arrived at Tottenham I struggled to adjust and adapt to a different mentality. People talk about the pace of the game – where here we have fast players, in England it's the ball; the speed of actual play and the game intelligence – you get players who see three, four passes ahead and that's where their speed lies. It's a huge difference, especially for a defender, to adjust to



Rough stuff – Doncaster's Khumalo is clattered by Grant Holt of Wigan Athletic

handling different situations. In the Championship, it's more in your face, it's more direct and with a lot more contact. So in terms of the different styles, I've had good experience. Playing in Greece was also different, I played a couple of Europa League qualifiers. There it's more technical but a bit slower, with a lot of tactics as well. So that's three places where the mentalities are totally different.

Now I've come back, and even though I've played here before, I think people don't realise that when you're used to a certain mentality and style, it takes some time to readjust.

Many fans tend to view the lower divisions, such as the Championship, as a step down from the PSL. What do you make of that perception?

It's a very common misconception that the lower leagues in England are not worth playing in. What's unfortunate is that there's no exposure, and people have no idea what the competitiveness or the professionalism is like. All people know is what they see, which is the Premier League week-in, week-out.

The Championship is really tough – to be fair, even as players we used to think little of it, but it's really not the case when you're playing there. I can guarantee that if players in the PSL go over to the Championship, they would find it really hard. The intensity of those games is incredible from the minute the first whistle goes. It was a fight and I learned to love it, and I really enjoyed my time there.

But again, it's hard to change public perception when there's no education because games don't get televised. If the Championship was broadcast as much as the Premier League, people would realise what good players there are in that league, and maybe even wonder why some aren't playing for Manchester United or Chelsea. But because there's no exposure, people can't rate it, so they assume, 'He might as well be playing Mvela League, it's the same thing'. But NO my friend, it's nowhere near that.

I never take the criticism personally; I had an incredible experience and I loved it. I lived the dream and people will always have good and bad opinions, but ➤

“ Playing in the English Championship was a fight, and I learned to love it. ”

I never thought about it. I was around some top players, and the greatest feeling was gaining respect away from home. I'll always be grateful for that experience. **What do you mean when you say you were "living the dream"?**

Imagine waking up every day and having that itch to go and give your best because you are training with the world's top players. I remember my first day of training; David Beckham was sitting next to me in a changeroom. I used to think I get to training early, but when I would arrive, he was already there chilling and having a yoghurt before he goes to gym. And it wasn't only Beckham; it was Jermain Defoe, Kyle Walker, Luca Modric, Gareth Bale, Tom Huddlestone ... that was surreal; it was a dream. On the training ground the quality is unreal. You'd get Defoe coming to you and telling you, 'Bongs, today everything I touch is a goal', and then after training he'd come in and say, 'Bongs, what did I tell you?'. These are players that have achieved, yet they still want to be at their very best every single day.

How did you adapt to the lifestyle?

Suddenly you were earning British pounds, how did that impact on you?

It's important that your lifestyle remains consistent. There's nothing wrong with treating yourself with something nice, but a trap that people often fall into is when they earn more, they try to live a different lifestyle to show that they've gone up.

I count myself lucky because my best friends aren't in football or sport, and I come from a good family. I went to a good school and they looked after me, but I just wanted something that no parent can give you, which is football – I worked for it. It was never about money for me.

You've faced some personal criticism over the years. How has that affected you, and what is it about Bongani Khumalo that people don't know?

I don't come from a poor background. I was well taken care of while I was growing up – my Dad was a lecturer at Unisa and my Mom was a high school teacher. Because of my background, I had to work three times as hard as anyone else to get where I wanted to be. People think that it's all fun and games for me now that I've played in the national team, in the World Cup and I've gone to Europe, so it's like, 'Oh, model C, model C', but it was always hard to be taken seriously.

I've never thought for one second that I'm the best player, but I will work and fight, and never give up. That's it. I will



Return – Khumalo playing for Spurs against Kaizer Chiefs during the 2011 Vodacom Challenge



► **Full name:** Bongani Sandile Khumalo

► **Born:** 6/1/87 in Manzini, Swaziland

► **Previous teams:** Arcadia Shepherds

► **Professional debut:** Witbank Spurs 2

University of Pretoria 2 (13/8/05) ► **First goal:** OR Tambo District Cosmos 1 University of Pretoria 3 (14/1/07) ► **PSL debut:** SuperSport Utd 0 Kaizer Chiefs 0 (16/9/07) ► **First PSL goal:** SuperSport United 3 Orlando Pirates 1 (14/11/07) ► **International debut:** South Africa 2 Zimbabwe 1 (11/3/08) ► **Honours:** 42 senior international caps, 8 under-23 caps; 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10 PSL champion

Career history:

SEASON	CLUB	MATCHES	GOALS
05-07	Univ. Of Pretoria (Div. 1)	50 (+ 6 Sub)	4
07/08	Supersport United	28	4
08/09	Supersport United	27 (+4 Sub)	4
09/10	Supersport United	29	1
10/11	Supersport United	10	0
	Tottenham Hotspur	did not play	
	Preston North End		
	(England Div. 1, Loan)	6	0
11/12	Tottenham Hotspur	did not play	
	Reading (England Div. 1, Loan)	5	0
12/13	PAOK (Greece, Loan)	24 (+4 sub)	0
13/14	Doncaster Rovers		
	(England Div. 1, Loan)	32	0
14/15	Colchester (third tier)	10	0
15/16	SuperSport United	9	0
TOTALS		230	13

Correct as at 12/11/2015. League and cup games only. Charity games and friendlies not included.

never say 'I was a great player', but I'll say 'I worked, I grafted, I did whatever I could to improve'.

I lost my Dad when I was 13, and my Mom when I was 23. On the opening day of the 2010 World Cup was exactly a year since my mom had passed away. She died while I was in camp for the Confederations Cup [in 2009]. It was a tough time. You get challenges, but people don't see that. At the end of the

day, people will always have perceptions and opinions of you, but it's important to just focus on yourself, your career, your passion and your love.

You also suffered quite a serious injury in Bafana's 5-0 loss to Brazil in 2014. What was that like and how tough was it to come back?

My injury was career-threatening; it was massive and it's a miracle that I'm still playing football. I ruptured my patella tendon; my knee-cap was half-way up my thigh and because I'm a big guy, that's a massive tendon. I grafted for months to come back, and when I played my first 45 minutes after eight months, no one could believe it. The physiotherapist even told me, 'Bongs, honestly, I didn't think you'd play football again'. But I lost all my muscle – my leg was straight for three months. I was at training by myself – six fields, it was empty, it was baby steps. I had to start all over with walking and running ... it's a miracle.

Any hopes of returning to the national team set-up now that you are back home?

I'm always hungry to play at a higher level. I do miss the big games, the occasions that those games brought, but I mean I haven't retired, which says everything. At the end of the day there's a coach in place – if he wants to select me then I'm available, but if not then life goes on. My current focus is purely on SuperSport though. If I do a job there, then maybe I have a chance with the national team. **KO**

OMEGA

Lehlohonolo Majoro



KICKOFF

Brilliant Khuzwayo



KICKOFF

ALPHA &

Kermit Erasmus



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ARISTIDE DEVELOPMENT

Now that he is settled at Chippa United, Burkina Faso Striker **Aristide Bance** sits down with Ernest Fakude to give his impressions of football in a new country.

KICK OFF: How do you feel about life so far at Chippa United?

ARISTIDE BANCE: It feels good. I received a warm welcome and everyone in the team is friendly, the coach and all the players. I am very happy!

After playing in Europe, why did you choose to come to South Africa?

I played here during the Africa Cup of Nations, and I loved what I saw – it's a beautiful country. Also, one of my friends Madi Panandetigui played here at Chippa United. He told me many positive things about this country.

How do you find life in the Friendly City, Port Elizabeth?

It's cool. Somehow it feels like Europe. I go out to restaurants once in a while, but I don't go out much.

I prefer to stay indoors after training.

You trained with Wits but did not sign. Please share with us what happened?

Yes I trained with Wits, but from what I heard from my manager, Jean Marc [Eyango], they could not agree on financial terms.

Now that you have played a few games, how do you find the standard of football?

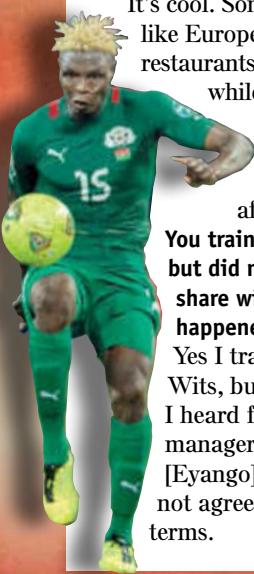
It's good! It's open because any team can beat any other team. I also like the way the teams play here; it's attacking football.

How do you feel about Chippa's performance so far?

So far the team is doing well, though we are not consistent. There is great hope. The players are hungry for success. The club is not big like Orlando Pirates, Kaizer Chiefs or Mamelodi Sundowns, but there is great potential. Everyone is working hard. I am here to help the club win – I want to help the team become a powerhouse. Everything is possible as long we work hard and work collectively as a team.

You have played alongside Lerato Manzini, Mhlelani Cele and Rhulani Manzini; who do you enjoy playing with?

All the players are good. I am a team player, I don't mind who I play with. I am also not a coach, so I



T



"I want to help Chippa United become a powerhouse."

can't choose. I enjoy playing with all the strikers, Mhengi, Lerato and Rhulani; it's not a problem. We all have different qualities, but Rhulani is strong, he can run and can fight for the ball in the air.

What are views about Mark Mayambela, the crowd favourite?

Mark is a good player. If he can use all his concentration, he can do better than he is doing now – he can play in Europe if he wants. He can dribble,

he can run and he has a good physique.

Who has been your toughest opponent in the League so far?

It's difficult to say now – maybe after the first round I can say something. But I can mention my teammate, James [Okwuosa]. I see him more at training and during the games. He is strong and also good in the air.

Who amongst the 'Big Three' has impressed you most so far this season?

Orlando Pirates. They play good, attacking football, and they are quick.

What are your personal ambitions in the PSL?

I am team player and I like to work as a member of a collective for the success of

the team. I know as a striker, you will expect me talk to you about the top goalscorer award. No! I don't mind who scores. If we lose 3-2 and I score a goal I feel bad; if we win 1-0 and another player scores, then I am happy. My ambition is to do well with the rest of the team this season. **KO**



► **Full name:** Aristide Bance
► **Born:** 19/9/84 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast ► **Source:** Stade Abidjan youth ► **PSL debut:**

Platinum Stars 3 Chippa Utd 2 (22/9/15) ► **First goal:** Chippa Utd 2 Polokwane City 1 (25/9/15)

► **Honours:** 47 Burkina Faso caps (13 goals); 2014 Finnish League winner; 2014 Finnish Cup winner; 11/12 UAE League Cup winner

Career history:

SEASON	CLUB	GAMES	GLS
2000	Stade Abidjan	33	8
2001	Athletic Adjame	30	5
2002	RFC Daoukro	20	8
02/03	Santos Burkina	16	9
03/04	Lokeren	7 (13 sub)	6
04/05	Lokeren	12 (13 sub)	6
05/06	Lokeren	20 (9 sub)	15
06/07	Metallur Donetsk	5 (7 sub)	2
07/08	*Germinal	2 (8 sub)	0
	Beerschot		
	*Kickers Offenbach	10	4
08/09	Mainz	35 (2 sub)	18
09/10	Mainz	28 (2 sub)	10
10/11	Al Ahli (UAE)	7	2
	*Umm Salal (Qat)	7	2
11/12	*Samsunspor	18 (2 sub)	5
12/13	Augsburg	6 (+15 sub)	1
13/14	*Fortuna	5 (11 sub)	2
	Dusseldorf		
2014	HJK Helsinki	4 (+2 sub)	1
14/15	Irtysh Pavlodar (Kaz)	9 (+2 sub)	2
15/16	Chippa Utd	7	2
	*loan		
Totals:		281	108

Correct as at 13/11/15. League and cup matches only. Friendlies and charity matches not included.

EARN YOUR STRIPES



After 20 years as a coach, **Gavin Hunt** is able to reflect on how the game has evolved over the years from a coaching and playing perspective.

BY TIYANI WA KA MABASA



KICK OFF: Let's go back to the beginning of the season – 12 out of 16 coaches in the PSL were local. As a local coach who's been doing this job for 20 years, how did that make you feel?

GAVIN HUNT: It's good and it shows you there is a need and a will to learn – they want to improve. People that are involved are people certainly earning their stripes – you know what I'm saying. A lot of ex-players just want it to happen without going through the learning process. I was in the First Division for three years. A lot of coaches certainly want top jobs and good jobs, but you've got to earn your stripes. I don't buy into this 'local coach' or 'foreign coach'. If he's done well, earned his stripes, got good credentials and good qualifications, it doesn't

matter where he is from. For ex-players, if they want to coach, they must go through the process.

You have a Uefa 'A' Licence – how has that helped you in your career?

You start out learning from coaches you worked under, and use your experiences to implement things that would be of benefit to you as a player. But there is no doubt that when you do the licences and coaching courses, you learn from other coaches and learn from experiences what to do in crisis situations; what to do and what you don't need to do. There are a lot of coaches who feel they don't need to do coaching courses, but I disagree. The game doesn't change, but you need to update certain trends.

Society is changing, the youth are changing and the mentality is changing. From my time, in terms of how the players were spoken to and how you trained is totally different.

Can you please elaborate on that?

Look at the youth of today. If the players got spoken to now the way I got spoken to they wouldn't play. They would cry and run away. The game has changed; the youth are weak, the mentality is weak and in my time the players were more focused.

Who paid for your qualifications?

I paid my way – the tickets and everything. I did it the hard way and now people are sent all over the world through Safa. I have earned my stripes while a lot of people got it for free.

How much did you spend?

I spent R180 000 to do my coaching courses, over a four-year period. It has paid off in a sense that it just gives you a better outlook. You can solve a lot of problems by doing certain drills and certain training sessions. It can't teach you the dynamics of the game. The smell of the dressing room is the most important thing: can you tell what it needs and doesn't need? Coaching courses won't teach you that, that's a human element, but certainly from a training perspective what it can teach you is what to do and what not to do in certain situations. When we do the final exam for the 'A' licence there are 75 topics you need to know ... that's why it takes you four years, and those are the type of things money can't buy.

Wits are once again one of the League front-runners. Do you think you have the squad to win the title?

Well, our team is better and there is a lot more resilience. That was one of the things lacking, this is a club that hasn't got a winning culture and we need to create that, which takes time and starts from the top.

You probably have more youngsters than most PSL teams – players like Phakamani Mahlambi (18), Marcus Lecki (21) and Paseka Sekese (21). How is that working out?

Youth gives you freshness, gives you brightness and gives you energy. It gives you freedom. I always say old players are overrated.

In what sense?

Because old players generally have a lot of bad habits. I had breakfast with Sir Alex Ferguson and asked him, 'What is your secret since you've been in the game for more than 20 years?' and he said when a player loses his hunger and desire, you've got to get rid of him. That's the secret ... the most important thing in football is knowing when to get rid of a player. When the players are winning, do they still want to win? And when you are winning you have to change your team, and when you

HUNT SAYS

I spent R180 000 to do my coaching courses.

I'm a big believer in the youth. Old players are overrated.

Sir Alex Ferguson said to me when a player loses his hunger and desire, you get rid of him.

If Zongo is honest with himself he has failed, hasn't he?

Vilakazi hasn't played with a smile on his face, even at training.

Black Leopards was the most pleasurable coaching job that I've had.

Even throw-ins are bad in South Africa.

are losing you don't change your team. It is so true – when you are winning you must introduce new players and keep the freshness in the squad. Never let a team get old together – there are one or two teams getting old together and you can see it. The results are not there, they haven't introduced younger players while they were winning ... When we were winning with SuperSport, we brought in [Masibusane] Zongo, [Kermit] Erasmus, [Thandani] Ntshumayelo, Ronwen Williams and that kept the team fresh.

Is that the reason we don't have many players moving to Europe?

That's the bottom line. They are too comfortable here and right back to my statement earlier: society has changed. Our youth has changed; they are spoilt and they are lazy. You've got to want it more. The ones with huge potential are generally not achieving anything.

What do you make of Zongo?

If Zongo is honest with himself, he has failed, hasn't he? When he came on the scene in 2008 we played Chiefs and Daine Klate got injured, so Zongo was the next in line. I couldn't play anybody else and I played him. I believed in him. He did the simple things, which is what you want. And the simple things in football are the hardest things to do. Zongo would get the ball, beat the man and cross the ball. His crossing is unbelievable. Jimmy Tau was the Chiefs right-back, and I think Jimmy is still looking for Zongo! We thought ➤



Early days – Hunt's first coaching job was at Seven Stars. Here he is with Mara Sefelane, George Dearnaley and Simphiwe Thomas

we had something, but the next game he started doing things that didn't apply in the team. He wanted to play his way. If you look at that bunch – 'Bibo', Kermit, [Kamohelo] Mokotjo, Ronwen – he was the best player. But Mokotjo has played over 100 games in the Dutch League. Bibo has played maybe 200 games in the PSL and he's won trophies. Kermit played at Feyenoord – been there, done that. He's still scoring for a big team. Ronwen has been consistent and yet Zongo was the best in that group. You got to ask yourself why? People say he's got flair and yeah, but Pitso [Mosimane] is right.

Pitso did criticise Zongo's showboating ...
If Zongo gets the ball, beats people and crosses the ball he is magnificent. He would kill everybody, because he can pass, he can play and shoot, but obviously you know he has his way of playing. Really, do we want our game to go that way?

Did you watch our Under-17s at the World Cup? Are there any players you would love to have at Wits?

Is that really our best Under-17 side? No, if we are honest with ourselves. Have we really gone looking for the best talent in South Africa? For me, there have got to be better players. How do we take a midfielder and play him at full-back? A

national team should never compromise by playing players out of position. If that's our best team, I think we've got problems. The national team is not about coaching, but it is about selecting. It is about selecting players who can play a certain way.

And Bafana Bafana?

Bafana is what it is at the moment. It is a team going through a transitional phase and the selection of players is interesting. Everybody is going to criticise the selection, but certainly there are better players, in my honest opinion. There certainly has to be more scrutiny going into the selection.

Some people believe you should coach the national team. Is that your ambition?

I always said it is something that needs to be done by an older person – your older

national team coaches are better because of the frequency of the playing and working environment. There is not really much to do besides watching games. I think a national coach could get more involved in the teams, maybe watching training a little bit more. If you are not sure about a player, go and watch the training. That has never happened and that's something I would do. Ask about a player if you are not sure. They have to be more interactive, because what else are they doing? One coach who did get it right was Clive [Barker]. He got the selection right ... he had a balanced team and the results proved that. Now with our ranking dropping people don't want to play us, but you need to be playing stronger opposition all the time. He played Argentina, Germany, Brazil ... now we play Swaziland! It is about selection.

Kermit Erasmus said he is 'no back-up player' – was that situation created by the way the team is selected?

Well, something happened that we haven't seen and haven't heard. Something between Shakes and him. If there is one person who can score it is Kermit, even if he plays 20 minutes. I know him. If you look at the Bafana bench now, you are saying, 'Um, there is not much going on there'. Kermit can

i ►Full name: Gavin John Hunt ►Born: 11/7/64 in Cape Town ►Playing career: Hellenic (1981-1994) 302 games, 6 goals; Cape Town Spurs (1993-1995) 11 games ►Coaching career: Seven Stars (1995-1998); Hellenic (1999-2001); Black Leopards (2001/2002); Moroka Swallows (2002-2007); SuperSport United (2007-13); Bidvest Wits 2013- ►Coaching honours: 1997/1998 First Division Coastal Stream champion, 01/02, 07/08 PSL Coach of the Year, 2004 Absa Cup winner; 07/08, 08/09, 09/10 PSL champion, 2012 Nedbank Cup winner

Hunt's PSL record (as at 9/11/15)					
P	W	D	L	GF	GA
524	226	161	137	699	503

Better than Benni?



Is Phakamani Mahlambi really better than Benni McCarthy at 18, as you recently stated?

It is hard to compare because the one is done and the other is just starting. People say I've got rocks in my head, but Phakamani has more pace, and can shoot left and right better than Benni. He's got more spring in the air, he can play in numerous positions and he's got something Benni never had – Benni couldn't beat people. But potential means nothing until you turn it into medals. If this boy can get half of what Benni achieved, he would be happy. I think he would tick more boxes than Benni did at 18, but that means nothing if he loses desire. Benni had the attitude to want to achieve.

change a game. So fit or not fit, problems or no problems, you put your pride in the pocket, and move on.

What's the situation with Sibusiso Vilakazi? He started the first nine League games last season and in comparison, he has started only five of 10 this season ...

If Vila is honest with himself and I'm honest with him, he hasn't been producing. I like him, but he hasn't been doing it for us with the ball or without the ball.

Is it due to off-season transfer rumours?

Any player would be affected by all the media hype, but we need a fit and motivated Vilakazi – which we haven't had. That's the bottom line. There is no tip-toeing around the situation. Of course he could bounce back. He is 25 and he needs to regain his hunger, especially for the game. A lot of footballers fall out of love with the game. He hasn't played with a smile on his face, even at training. He needs to rekindle that hunger.

But Alex Ferguson said that you should get rid of such a player ...

[Laughs] Well, then the debate comes.

“ If Vila is honest with himself and I'm honest with him, he hasn't been producing. ”

Players can't keep moving because something has gone down at the club. They should bring back what we had in our day. We all wanted to move, but we were bound to the club for life until the Bosman ruling came in. I signed a registration form in 1981 and I left Hellenic in 1994. I wanted to leave every year. The only time they allowed you to leave was when they didn't want you anymore. Things have changed.

Let's talk about your coaching career. How was your stay at Black Leopards?

Here, you take a boy from Cape Town, and you put him in a situation like that. That was the best thing. The boys at Leopards had nothing ... but one thing they had was hunger and desire. That was the most pleasurable coaching job that I've had in terms of how they responded. The only reason we got beat or lost games was because maybe we weren't good enough, but it was never through lack of desire or heart. I have to thank [David] Thidiela, because he put faith in me. When I got there, I will never forget, I said to him, 'David, we need a few players and he said to me, 'No, no, no. You will use these rural boys'. They got better and there is nothing easier in the world than coaching a player who wants to learn. We were never going to win the League [Leopards finished in the top eight] because we never had enough quality, but we were second halfway into the season. 'Matari' [Chris Netshidzivhe] couldn't even speak English and he took me to his house where he was born next to a river. And here he is camping in the Holiday Inn and flying in an aeroplane talking 4-4-2, 4-3-3 and it was good for me as a coach to go back to a basic situation.

Being named Coach of the Year must have been very satisfying?

There was a little bit of resentment towards it because people were like, 'What did we win?' I felt it was mission accomplished from what we achieved. We faded at the end, because we didn't have the numbers.

So why did you leave?

I got offered an opportunity at Swallows. They doubled my money and I knew that to achieve what we achieved again was going to be very difficult ... It was a footballing decision. No disrespect to Leopards, but this was an opportunity at a club with a bigger stature – even though Leopards were drawing more crowds. I remember even when we played Bush Bucks there would be

10 000 people there.

After all you've achieved, do you still have the hunger for the game?

When I come to training tomorrow morning for a five-a-side, I want to win. I will never lose the hunger. I lose hunger when the players don't want to get better – then either the player must go or I go.

How did you do it at SuperSport United?

It was a club that always wanted to achieve and our recruitment was good. Maybe we didn't always get the best players, but we got the right players. Look at Shane Poggenpoel. He didn't get the accolades he deserved, but he was fantastic for us. I had players like Daine [Klate], [Elias] Pelembé, Bongani [Khumalo], Morgan [Gould]... those were the right players.

A former player of yours once told KICK OFF it is your dream to coach in England ...

I've got a desire to coach in England? No, no. A lot of coaches will say that they want to do things and when they get into situations, they are scared. If you take a coach and say here is an open chequebook, they wouldn't spend the money. I will spend the money, buy the best players and put myself under pressure. I want to have that pressure to win. I don't want to be the underdog. So it's not about England, but about trying to get to the highest level.

Some people say PSL football is boring because coaches apply negative tactics ...

The games are quite exciting, but it is the quality of the final pass. How many times do you see good movement and build up? All the players have to do is cross the ball into the box, and then it is a mistake or a bad pass. It is more to do with the quality of the individual in a final moment. Sundowns have the quality in the final moment more than anybody else. Keagan Dolly can play a final pass and Teko [Modise] is still a fantastic player in the final pass. And that's all that's lacking in South Africa. In the middle third I think we are as good as anybody else in the world – the passing, one-twos and moving. In the defending third, not so good; and the final third, we are rated at number 150! If you take a player like Kermit and feed him properly, he can score plenty goals. Look at corners. People go into the area to wait for the ball, but the ball is 10 metres too high or low or 20 metres away, so the deliverer is the problem. In the 1980s we had five, six, seven, eight players scoring 20 goals and more. Why? Because the delivery was better. Even throw-ins are bad in South Africa. So where does it lead you back to? Development. We need to get more qualified coaches especially at ground level. **KO**

WHEN PIRATE



Twenty years ago Orlando Pirates overcame great odds to claim Africa's biggest club prize, the CAF Champions Cup. Zola Doda reminisces with the heroes of that victory.

Twenty years after the event, it seems strange to hear one of Orlando Pirates' legends of 1995 say "we did not take the competition seriously" but that is how the players approached the African Champions Cup at first.

Edward Motale recalls that at the time Pirates had no understanding whatsoever of the challenges of playing in Africa. "It was great to win the competition, because at the beginning we didn't take it seriously,

to be honest with you," Motale says.

"It was the first time we were playing in such a tournament and we didn't really know what to expect. But the more we progressed we realised that we were competing in a very important tournament and we became more focused.

"There were so many difficulties we came across, but we were so determined, even though there was no prize money."

December 16 will hold special significance for Orlando Pirates this year, as the

club celebrates the 20th anniversary of being crowned CAF Champions Cup winners following their 3-2 aggregate win over Asec Mimosa of Cote d'Ivoire in 1995.

The Buccaneers' route to African glory started in Mbabane, Swaziland. Coached by Mike Makaab, who had guided them to the League title the year before, they swept aside Eleven Men in Flight with a 5-0 aggregate score, setting up a clash against Nigerians BCC Lions.

The first leg was to take place in Makur-

S W E R E K I N G S



Target man – Asec defenders close in on Jerry Sikhosana during the first leg of the Final, at FNB Stadium, as John Moeti moves in readiness for a pass

Road to the Final

First round, First leg

12 March, Mbabane, Swaziland

Eleven Men in Flight 0

Orlando Pirates 3 (Ramokadi 30, 51 Motale 73)

First Round, Second Leg

25 March, Johannesburg

Orlando Pirates 2 (Lane 2 Maponyane 89)

Eleven Men in Flight 0

Second round, first leg

7 May, Makurdi, Nigeria

BCC Lions (1) 1 (Madueme 2)

Orlando Pirates (0) 1 (Ramokadi 73)

Second round, second leg

21 May, Johannesburg

Orlando Pirates (1) 1 (Silent 5)

BCC Lions 0

Quarter-final, first leg

10 September, Libreville, Gabon

Mbilinga (1) 2 (Adewale 10 Ogandaga 89)

Orlando Pirates (0) 1 (Maponyane 50)

Quarter-final, second leg

23 September, Johannesburg

Orlando Pirates (2) 3 (Mkhalele 11 Silent 29 Sikhosana 89)

Mbilinga 0

Semi-final, first leg

14 March, Johannesburg

Orlando Pirates (0) 1 (Sikhosana 52)

Express 0

Semi-final, second leg

28 October, Uganda

Express (0) 1 (Arinaitwe 65)

Orlando Pirates (0) 1 (Lane 89)

1995 CAF Champions Cup Final, First Leg

Saturday, 2 December

At FNB Stadium

Orlando Pirates (2) 2 (Mkhalele 5 Lane 42)

Asec Abidjan (2) 2 (Zaki 18 Sie 31)

Dismissal: Mncwango 36

Pirates: Williams Okpara, Edward Motale, Phiri Tsotetsi, Mark Fish, Gavin Lane, John Moeti (*Dumisa Ngobe 86th*), Innocent Mncwango, Brandon Silent, Helman Mkhalele, Marc Batchelor (*Bruce Ramokadi 81st*), Jerry Sikhosana

Coach: Joe Frickleton

Second Leg

Saturday, 16 December

In Abidjan

Asec Abidjan 0

Orlando Pirates (0) 1 (Sikhosana 73)

Pirates: Williams Okpara, Edward Motale, Phiri

Tsotetsi, Mark Fish, Gavin Lane, John Moeti, Vincent Sokhela (*Bernard Lushozi 77th*), Brandon Silent, Helman Mkhalele, Bruce Ramokadi (*Marc Batchelor 54*), Jerry Sikhosana

Coach: Ronald Mkhandawire

di. It was to prove an important moment in Pirates initiation into the trials and tribulations of playing on the continent.

“When we went to play in Nigeria, the hotel we stayed in had a nightclub, a disco, prostitutes and everything. It was like being in the middle of Hillbrow. We couldn’t sleep because people were knocking on our doors all the time,” Motale says. “We had to be strong and every time we experienced something negative it made us stronger. Our bond was strong.

In the first leg against BCC Lions, Arthur Madueme opened the scoring for the hosts after just two minutes, but Bruce Ramokadi’s 73rd minute equaliser gave

Pirates a vital away goal in what ended as a 1-1 draw.

It was an impressive result, given that the referee and match commissioner spent much of the half-time interval instructing an assistant referee exactly when he should raise his flag for offside when Pirates were on the attack.

In the return leg Brandon Silent’s fifth minute goal was enough to hand Pirates a 2-1 aggregate win.

On the domestic scene, however, Pirates were falling behind in the title race and Joe Frickleton replaced Makaab. Frickleton’s first continental match was a tricky quarter-final first leg away to



Silverware – Hero of the hour
Sikhosana embraces the trophy

Mbilinga in Gabon. The Buccaneers lost 2-1, veteran striker Marks Maponyane netting the crucial away goal.

In the return leg, Pirates opened the scoring through Helman Mkhale in the 11th minute before Silent scored a second with a piledriver from outside the box. Jerry Sikhosana's 89th minute goal gave Pirates a 3-0 win.

Pirates were through to the semi-finals, however, and the nation was becoming gripped in Champions Cup fever. To reach the Final, the Buccaneers had to overcome Express of Uganda in the semi-finals.

Right-back Phiri Tsotetsi, who joined at the beginning of that year from Moroka Swallows, was handed his Champions Cup debut in place of Oupa Mabuza, an ever-present until that point. Mark Fish had recovered from injury to take his place alongside Lane and Motale in the back four.

Mkhale says he will never forget the semi-final in Kampala. "We won the first leg 1-0 at home [Sikhosana scoring] but the second leg was hell and we were so close to getting knocked out," he says.

"When we were walking onto the pitch one of their supporters threw a salt-like powder on my back. I ignored it because I thought he was just trying to scare us with muti. As the match kicked off I felt something itching on my back and it made

me so uncomfortable I wanted to wash it off, but I was told not to, because it would make it worse.

"As I continued to play I was sweating and the sweat made the pain and itching unbearable; I couldn't concentrate. I could hardly take it any more. Then they scored, but just when we thought we were going to penalties Gavin Lane scored with a last minute header. I was so happy even the pain went away."

For 22-year-old Dumisa Ngobe, the win came just after he had solved his off-field problems following a controversial transfer from Witbank Aces via Kaizer Chiefs.

"I was in and out of the team because I was new and young," Ngobe says. "But I had guys who were there to help me and that experience helped me become a better player and a stronger man. The Pirates management also made life better because they were there all the way. If you have the support from top management then everything is possible."

"The chairman [Irvin Khoza] said he wanted to see the team go far as possible... he didn't set unrealistic targets. There was no prize money, but after we won the semi-final in Uganda we got bonuses."

In the other semi-final Asec beat Ismaily of Egypt 5-2 on aggregate. Pirates were set to play one of Africa's most famous clubs in the Final.

The men who did the job

Williams Okpara

Okpara joined the Buccaneers in 1993 and played every single minute in the 1995 Champions Cup campaign, keeping six clean sheets. He played the game of his life in Abidjan as Pirates became African champions. The former Nigeria international is now Orlando Pirates' team manager.

Lucky Shiburi

Current Bafana Bafana goalkeeper coach Shiburi won the 1994 League title, 1995 Champions Cup and 1996 African Super Cup without playing a single minute! Finished his career at City Pillars in 2007.

Bernard Lushozi

Lushozi was an important member in the early stages of the competition, making four appearances. Now works at the Albert Sisulu Special School that caters for children with disabilities.

Gavin Lane

'Stability Unit' was the rock in the heart of the Pirates defence. Lane played in all 10 matches, scoring three goals. After his playing days ended at AmaZulu, he coached briefly at Zulu Royals. He now lives in Durban and is a sales manager for a building and renovation company.

Mark Fish

The young Fish joined from Jomo Cosmos and became one of the stars of the Pirates team. He missed both matches against BCC Lions through injury. He captained Pirates when they beat JS Kabylie in the Super Cup before moving and to Europe. He remains in the spotlight as a TV pundit.

Phiri Tsotetsi

The speedy former Moroka Swallows right-back played in both legs of the semi-final and the Final. After leaving Pirates, he joined AmaZulu where a bad ankle break forced his retirement. Now works on the mines in the Vaal region.

Alpheus Mabuza

Mabuza was a solid full-back whose contribution is largely unsung. His career ended following a car accident while on a club trip. He sued and won compensation from Pirates. Now works for SAB.

Edward Motale

Motale made his debut at Jomo Cosmos as a youngster in 1986 and later moved to Dynamos before joining Pirates in 1994. He played in all Champions Cup matches in 1995. After leaving the Bucs, he played for SuperSport United,



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Job done – The players celebrate on the pitch after winning Africa's biggest prize

The first leg of the Final was scheduled for FNB Stadium, and according to former Pirates goalkeeper Williams Okpara; “Asec came here thinking they would win comfortably. They were favourites because of their track record.”

But the Ivorians got a shock when Mkhalele opened the score inside five minutes – cutting in from the left wing to curl the ball inside the far post.

“I didn’t touch the ball for four minutes and I was so frustrated because I wanted to get into the game,” Mkhalele recalls. “But with my first touch I played a combination with Jerry and scored the opening goal and that changed everything.”

But ‘everything’ quickly changed again. Pirates began to lose their way in midfield and panic at the back as Asec got into their groove.

Nigerian striker John Zaki equalised in the 18th minute before Donald Sie made it 2-1 for the visitors on the half hour. It got worse a few minutes later when captain Innocent Mncwango was sent off for a stamp. Pirates were down to 10 men and chasing the match.

Lane saved the day with another headed goal, three minutes before the interval, but as the match ended 2-2, Asec remained firm favourites to clinch the trophy in the second leg.

To make things worse for the dejected

Pirates fans, some sections of the local media showed complete ignorance of the away-goal rule, and informed readers that away goals count double – meaning that Asec Mimosa were leading 4-2!

That was quickly cleared up, but when Khoza fired Frickleton for publicly criticising the club, things began to look bad again. Assistant coach Ronald Mkhandawire was put in charge for the most important match in the club’s history.

With captain Mncwango suspended, the inexperienced Mkhandawire taking the reins, and a partisan crowd awaiting them in Abidjan, Pirates looked doomed.

“On Tuesday before we left for Abidjan I received a call from Irvin Khoza saying I would be the captain in the second leg,” Motale says. “He told me to lead the team by example and I told him I knew the other guys were going to support me all the way. We got to Abidjan on Wednesday and we could see from the day we landed that something big was going to happen. Their fans were everywhere, singing and dancing, wearing their club colours.

“On the day of the match the excitement was in the air. We needed to win; they needed just a 1-1 or goalless draw. When the match started they were kicking balls out and wasting time because there were only about three ball boys. At half-time our guys were panicking because

Moroka Swallows, Ria Stars and Avendale Athletico. He is a community coach and mentor in Gauteng.

John Moeti

Midfield dynamo Moeti won the 1991 JPS Cup with Dynamos, but it was at Pirates that his career took off and he became one of the most respected figures in football. He later went on to play for SuperSport United before retiring in 2002. He now does church missionary work in Limpopo.

Dumisa Ngobe

Called ‘Isiphithiphithi’ for his ability to get up and down for the entire 90 minutes, Ngobe played in the quarter-finals, semi-finals and as a sub in the first leg of the Final. In 2013, he had a spell coaching Tshwane University of Technology’s eMalahleni Campus team. Now works for the eMalahleni Municipality as a consultant.

Innocent Mncwango

An accomplished midfielder, Mncwango captained Pirates, but missed the second leg of the Final after getting sent off. He later played for AmaZulu. He is now a prison warden at Johannesburg Prison.

Helman Mkhalele

Alongside Fish and Mncwango, ‘Midnight Express’ was in the Jomo Cosmos team that played in the 1993 Cup Winners Cup. He later played in Turkey. In September 2015 Mkhalele was in Germany for a coaching course, and when South Africa played Angola in the Chan qualifiers, he was assistant coach.

Brandon Silent

Made his professional debut for Vaal Reefs Stars in 1992. The goal ‘Sgcebezana’ scored against Mbilinga ranks as one of his finest ever. He only missed one match in the 1995 Champions Cup. A qualified accountant, Silent is now a member of the coaching staff at North-West University.

Ernest Makhanya

‘Botsots’ Makhanya was the darling of the Buccaneers fans, but when Pirates campaigned in Africa, the midfielder was in the twilight of his career and he only played in the first two rounds. Makhanya passed away in September 2009 aged 49.

Mandla Zwane

Midfielder Mandla Zwane came on as substitute for Bruce Ramokadi in the first match against Eleven Men in Flight, but soon after left to join Portuguese side FC Porto, where a young Jose Mourinho was an assistant coach. After returning from Europe, Zwane played for SuperSport United, Manning Rangers, FC AK, Black Leopards and Mpumalanga Black Aces. He is Bradley Carnell’s assistant coach at the University of Johannesburg.

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HONDA
The Power of Dreams



Heroes reunion – Gavin Lane, Mark Batchelor, Mark Fish, KICK OFF's Richard Maguire (who traveled to Abidjan) and Bruce Ramokadi celebrate in 2012

they wanted to score, but I said to them, 'Let's rather lose on away goals, let us not concede,' because I could feel there was an element of desperation."

Then in the 73rd minute, Fish hoofed a clearance over the halfway line and, with Sikhosana giving chase two Ivorian defenders collided. 'Legs of Thunder' was left free to gallop through and plant the ball past the goalkeeper. The stadium fell silent.

When the match restarted, Asec frantically laid siege to Okpara's goal.

With less than 15 minutes remaining, Khoza got a message down to Mkhandawire – bring on another defender!

Veteran hardman Bernard 'Shooz' Lushozi was sent on to stem the flow, and if need be, destroy everything in sight – and that is exactly what he did.

"To be honest, I was scared when I came on," Lushozi says. "When you come on in a match of that magnitude you don't have the time to settle down – those 15 minutes felt like an hour. We were really under pressure and I remember when I cleared the first ball I miss-kicked it, but fortunately we had a great defence and a great goalkeeper."

"Our players were brilliant, and with a bit of luck we scored and won the most important trophy in Pirates' history. 20 years later people are still talking about it."

Against all odds the Buccaneers won 3-2 on aggregate, and Motale became the first captain in Southern Africa to lift the CAF Champions Cup, now known as the CAF Champions League trophy.

When the team landed back in South Africa, the players received a heroes' welcome. They also went on to win the CAF Super Cup, beating Algerian side JS Kabyle 1-0 thanks to Ramokadi's goal.

"We were celebrated like superstars – the country was united," Motale says. "That is the proudest moment of my career because we represented our country and I lifted the trophy."

Mkhalele says playing for Jomo Cosmos in the 1994 CAF Cup Winners' Cup helped him a lot.

"That experience played a huge role guys like Mark Fish were there too. That is where we learned how to fight because when we came back we had to play in the League. That season Cosmos were relegated, but I took my experience to Orlando Pirates, a team that had unity and courage," Mkhalele says.

"Pirates' victory in 1995 was not like an individual performance. We had a great team and fighting spirit. I was the target in most of our games and guys like Lushozi and Lane protected me all the way ... I only had to focus on my performance."

Lushozi believes that a team of Pirates' calibre should have won the trophy again by now.

"Back then, we were not aware that the tournament was big. We had only just come back from isolation and didn't have a clue about how big the tournament was. This generation should know that, and they should give their best to win it," he says.

"The present team have a chance of winning, but there are certain things the coaching staff must tell these players. They can't play well in Africa and then come back and lose matches in the PSL."

"They need to handle the transition of playing in two competitions. They need to bring that mentality of CAF home and beat local competitors. To win in Africa and then a play draw with Platinum Stars makes it look like a fluke." **KO**

Vincent Sokhela

Sokhela made one appearance in the campaign – in the match that mattered, in Abidjan in place of the suspended Mncwango. Sokhela, who joined from Umtata Bush Bucks, went on to achieve more success with Santos where he won the Bob Save Super Bowl and the League title. He now works as a coach of a Vodacom team in Ladysmith.

Tebogo Moloi

In 1995 Moloi featured against Eleven Men in Flight and BCC Lions, before joining Colombian side Once Caldas. Later returned to Pirates and remains at the club today, as assistant coach.

Marc Batchelor

The former Wits striker started the first leg of the Final against Asec and came on as a substitute in the second leg. Those were the only two matches 'Batch' played for Pirates in Africa that season. He later played for SuperSport United and Kaizer Chiefs. He lives in Johannesburg.

Jerry Sikhosana

Sikhosana's winning goal against Asec was enough to put his name in the history books. Sikhosana played for Giant Blackpool and Witbank Aces before joining Pirates and later turned out for Yunnan Hongta in China and AmaZulu before a brief return to Pirates in 2000/01 and stints at Tembisa Classic and City Sharks. Later coached at City Pillars and now works at SuperSport as a TV pundit.

Bruce Ramokadi

In 1995 Ramokadi was an up-and-coming youngster. The son of former Kaizer Chiefs goalkeeper Joseph 'Banks' Sethlodi, he made three starts and seven substitute appearances during the CAF campaign. Injury hampered his career and he rarely played in the next two seasons, but enjoyed a revival in 1997/98 when he scored 11 goals. He was loaned to Cape Town Spurs the next year, then joined Manning Rangers before returning to Pirates in 2001. Later joined Jerry Sikhosana at Pietersburg Pillars in 2004. He now works for the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Marks Maponyane

When legendary Chiefs striker Maponyane joined Pirates from Dynamos in 1993, many fans thought he was past his sell-by date. He proved them wrong – scoring 18 goals as Pirates won the League in 1994 and winning the first KICK OFF Footballer of the Year award. He scored two goals in Pirates' Champions Cup campaign but did not play in the Final. Maponyane joined Wits University where he retired in 1997. These days works as a TV pundit for SABC.



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'OUR TALENT WA

In 2001 **Kaizer Chiefs** coined the phrase 'Vat Alles' as they dominated the cup competitions. But how did Amakhosi play three Cup Finals in the space of two weeks and still win?

BY NEIL GREIG



The Glamour Boys celebrate their 2001 Mandela Cup Final victory over InterClube of Angola

What was the ingredient that made Kaizer Chiefs the only South African club to lift the trophy that carries the name of former president Nelson Mandela when they won the African Cup Winners' Cup in 2001?

Most people will point to the undoubtedly individual talents of Jabu Pule, Brian Baloyi, Doctor Khumalo and Arthur Zwane, but that team's coach and Zwane himself say there was more to that success than meets the eye.

After a 1-1 draw in Luanda, Chiefs beat InterClube of Angola 1-0 at Ellis

Park to win the 'Mandela Cup' 2-1 on aggregate.

Between the away and return leg, Amakhosi had to play the Coca-Cola Cup Final against Jomo Cosmos. They thumped Cosmos 5-0 to add two more prizes to the BP Top 8 Cup they had won a few months earlier. Three months – three trophies.

'IS NOT ENOUGH'



Cup finals galore

Chiefs' three Cup Final wins in 2001:

1 September, 2001

BP Top 8 Cup

Chiefs 2

Sundowns 2

Chiefs win 7-6 on penalties

17 November, 2001

Nelson Mandela

Cup, first leg

InterClube 1
Chiefs 1

24 November, 2001

Coca-Cola Cup

Chiefs 5

Jomo Cosmos 0

1 December, 2001

Nelson Mandela

Cup, second leg

Chiefs 1

InterClube 0

Wing wonder Zwane, known as '10111', summarises those incredibly testing months best: "This success was all about character. We knew that we had to dig deeper and we knew that we could. It was that type of squad. And everybody could play too, what a talented bunch of players."

THE VAT ALLES SEASON

Aside from playing successive cup finals in the space of just a few weeks, other hurdles stood before Kaizer Chiefs in 2001, including travelling all over the African continent and coming up against teams more experienced in African club competition than they were.

"We won the Coca-Cola Cup, the Top 8 and the Africa Cup. Four cup final matches was very tough for us. You have to credit the team," Chiefs' coach at the time Muhsin Ertugral says.

"Club Africain had not lost in this cup at their home ground for ten years and Egypt's Ismaily were also very good at the time and not a team used to losing.

"I recall that to overcome Ismaily and Club Africain was very big. We had a police escort to help us get out of the stadiums. Home and away was very tough for us because we were not very experienced when it came to playing in Africa.

"But we had a young Bobby Motaung, I think in his second season with us. Bobby always flew in early, and sorted out everything at the away venue. He went three days early to Angola, Egypt and Tunisia so things were perfect when we got there. It was a highly organised operation.

"It is said that success breeds success – from the chairman to the grass cutter at our training fields, everything was smooth," says Ertugral, the current head coach of Mpumalanga Black Aces.

"The 2001 period was a moment when you just hoped that time could stand still. I jokingly told my wife back then that it was 'time to stop our watches'.

"I had a wonderful team with superb individuals. They followed tactics, but they also added their own skills and ideas on the field. Fantastic men."

Zwane also points to the work done by management to set up Vat Alles.

"Our management deserved credit for assembling this squad, which is never an easy thing. It all paid off eventually. The season before we did not win silverware, so the following campaign we wanted to fix this. And we did. It was a great honour to win the Cup Winners' Cup named after Nelson Mandela," Zwane says.

"We had great support from the chairman, the board of directors, our coach and his team and also the supporters. Everyone pulled their weight in the same direction.

"It was tough in Africa – teams made it hard, especially when it came to travelling and accommodation," Zwane continues. "We faced challenges, but we pulled through because of character. Our chairman also travelled with us to Egypt and Angola ... he was with us and motivated us. He wanted it badly and we did not want to disappoint him.

"What made this group special was everyone's commitment, and the players' character. We really knew how to dig deep. We had lots of talent, sure, but players always wanted to make the fans smile. We wanted to win it all. We knew who was behind us."

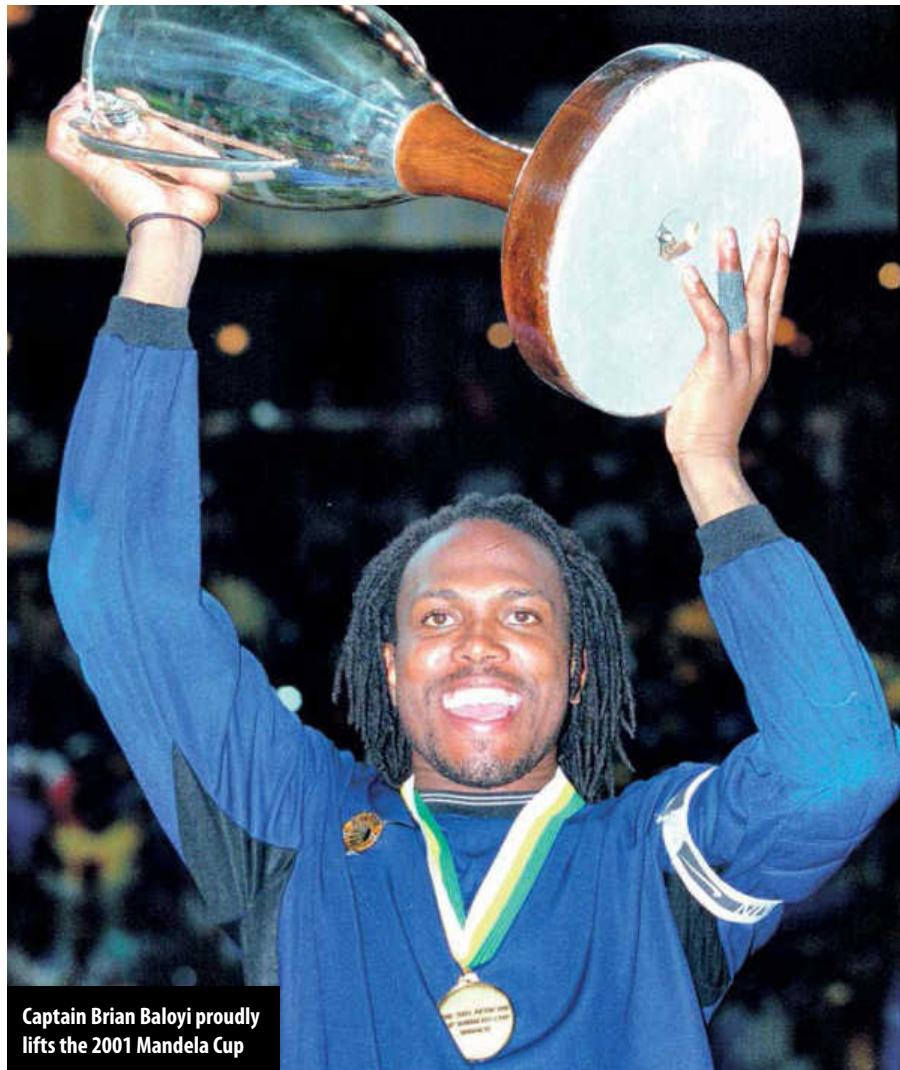
THE SECRET RECIPE

"I tell the players of today's generation: 'Talent will only take you so far. But you need to put in the hard work too,'" continues Zwane, who is a youth coach at Naturena.

Zwane can speak with authority to the younger generation. As a player, he put himself through a rigorous training schedule.

"I would train four times a day. At 6am I'd do some sprint training for endurance. Then home for a shower and breakfast and to the Village for training at 10am with the team. Then I'd go home and sleep a bit, eat lunch and back to train with the team in the afternoon at 4pm. Before this session, I'd run a bit and prepare myself to be warm by the time the session starts. Then I'd go home and rest, and then do roadwork in the evening. I'd take a nice run, then go home and stretch and eat. By 10pm it was lights out."

"There was a time when I did this for almost a full season. I would rest and slow this training down, but only around long trips like to Venda or Cape Town or for the Africa club competition. I always wanted to play for Chiefs so I never wanted to disappoint!"



Captain Brian Baloyi proudly lifts the 2001 Mandela Cup

THE CUP WINNER'S CUP FINAL

Amakhosi forced a 1-1 draw with InterClube in the first leg in Luanda and had little trouble winning the return leg in Johannesburg, even though it took a last minute penalty – a rather soft one at that – to secure the win, central defender Patrick Mabedi converting from the spot in the dying seconds. It should be noted that Chiefs would have still won on the away goals rule if the second leg had ended goalless.

But going into the Final, Chiefs had only 15 players to choose from for the game, including two goalkeepers, because of injuries and suspensions.

They only played with a single striker and were unable to convert the numerous chances they created from midfield where Jabu Pule was pulling the strings.

“The Angolans were very physical. In the first leg away, we scored first [through Luke Jukilile], and they replied. Then we had to defend, but we held on and our away goal was vital,” Ertugral says.

“By the home leg we could feel the pressure because the trophy was called the Nelson Mandela Cup and South Africans expected us to win it.

“Madiba came to see us three days later which was a fantastic moment for the team. The season before was the Ellis Park disaster ... that image of the young boy who had lost his father and brother in the stampede, sitting on the chairman’s lap, that will forever be etched in our memories.”

Zwane remembers the 2001 Final as a major milestone in his career.

“Remember that in between the two legs of the Africa Cup Final, we had to play the Coke Cup Final. So it was very tough. We played the first leg away in Angola, then flew home for the Coke Final with Jomo Cosmos, and then we hosted the Angolans for the second leg – all inside two weeks!

“But what people won’t know is what it was like on tour in Africa and the character you have to show to find success. The hotel where we slept in Angola had bullet holes in the walls, so if you were not mentally strong

Ertugral's stars

“THERE were just so many top, top players. Starting with Jabu Pule – I have never seen a better talent in South Africa. Simply a revelation. We had so many, but with Arthur Zwane and Marco Mthembu on the wings, it was just wave after wave coming at you. They were attack masters,” Ertugral says.

“You had Patrick Mabedi and Cyril Nzama – strong characters and quality defenders. Mabedi was a special defender. If you dribbled him he was so quick to recover, and he’d get back and catch you to make the tackle. Nzama was powerful and strong, he and Zwane formed a great combination down the right.

“Then you add the class of Doctor Khumalo – all his experience in the middle, and often Patrick Mbuthu next to him adding strength. What about Thabo Mooki? One of the most special players I have coached. I think Mooki is not mentioned enough in South Africa. Brian Baloyi – a more than special goalkeeper. Had he not broken through so late, I think he was around 26, then his goalkeeping career would have reached greater heights.”

The cost of Vat Alles

KAIZER Chiefs finished outside the Top Eight for the first time ever when they could only attain ninth place in May 2002. “All the cup action and success; the travelling really took so much out of the bodies and the minds of the players. But we also became the CAF Team of the Year for 2001 across the whole continent, so this was a great achievement.” Ertugral paid the ultimate price, however, when he lost his job in November 2002.

this could put fear in you. But because of the type of men in our squad, this just motivated us to keep fighting,” Zwane recalls.

“There was a nightclub next door to the hotel and one night a lady came to our door. She started speaking Portuguese and because I could speak a little bit from my time in Brazil, I asked what she wanted. It turned out she was a prostitute and she was trying to distract us from the game.

“My roommate Cyril Nzama and I just laughed and asked her to leave us because we knew they were playing games with us.

“Then in the home leg of the Final I remember getting an elbow and cutting my eye. I went off for a while as I was bleeding heavily and the late doctor Phil Maepa put this glue on my face to keep it from bleeding more. I had so much swelling and could not see properly.

“But these were great memories because we had so much talent in the team and everyone was willing to add value and win at all costs.” **KO**

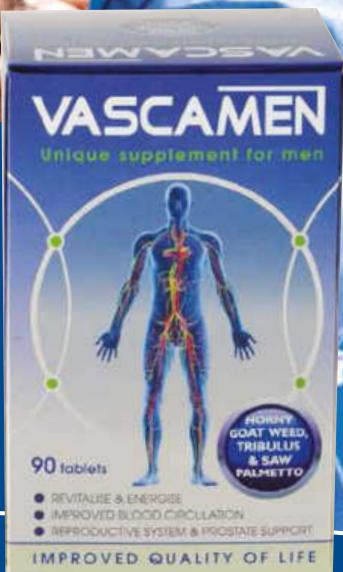
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DID YOU KNOW?

- Pauw has been married to former Sunderland assistant coach Bert van Lingen since 1994. They have no children.
- She played and captained the Dutch women's national team and made 89 international appearances.
- Pauw has a Uefa Pro-Licence, as well as a video analysis Pro-Licence.
- When she served as Technical Director/ Coach from October 2004 – April 2010, she was involved in the creation of the Premier League for women in the Netherlands.
- She authored the book *De voetbalvrouwen komen er aan* ("The soccer women are arriving at the top").

PAUW



POWER



PAUW SAYS

I will always love Banyana Banyana no matter what happens.

We have qualified and the best is still to come.

I probably believe more in Banyana Banyana than they do in themselves.

*Eight years ago Banyana Banyana coach **Vera Pauw** had a feeling she was going to end up in South Africa coaching the national team. She shares this story and more with KICK OFF.*

BY TIYANI WA KA MABASA

KICK OFF: Firstly, how has your stay been in South Africa and what do you like best?

PAUW: I love the country, I love the warmth of the people. Most people are so enthusiastic about our team. There is no place on the planet where the women's team is so part of the community. For my husband and me, the best place to be is Vilakazi Street in Soweto.

When you were approached, did you have any doubts about coaching in Africa? And what attracted you to Banyana Banyana?
I came with the Netherlands to play in South Africa in 2007. Back then I said to myself that somehow I would end up coaching in South Africa – I felt as if there was a special link between me and the country. It was just a strange feeling. So when I was approached, I was immediately open for discussions. The first training camp was with 42 players and was organised for the week after I arrived. After five days I loved the players already. When it is necessary to improve the performance, I can be firm in my coaching. But that has nothing to do with my feelings for these players. I will always love them no matter what happens.

What did you like most about Safa's proposal to you?

The ambition that spoke of the mandate to qualify for the World Cup, and the principle choice to go for it with female coaches. Germany is the only other country that has chosen female coaches only on women's teams. The president, Dr [Danny] Jordaan, was very clear. If Safa does not make a choice on it, where else can women develop as coaches? We need the experience in this game, so we have to give women the opportunity to share this experience with young players.

Regarding the Banyana job, it was interesting to hear players such as Janine van Wyk saying they didn't want you to go.

So if you didn't qualify for the Olympics, do you think you would have quit?

The players know that I live in South Africa without my husband. That is a huge sacrifice, so if we did not qualify for Rio we would have failed to reach the mandate for the second time [after failing to qualify for the World Cup], so the chance would have been big that I would have returned home because my contract would have ended. It would have been fair if Safa made that choice. If you don't qualify for the second time in a row in sport, then the unwritten law is to try something else. I would have fully accepted that without any hard feelings. A coach signs a contract being conscious of the mandate. I never understand when coaches then afterwards act as if they are unfairly treated when the organisation acts according to the contract. But we have qualified and the best is still to come!

Glad to hear that. Why do you think the players responded to your coaching methods so well?

I think you should ask the players why. I can only guess and I feel "trust" is the key word. We trust each other. We went through a lot and I think they feel they can trust me 100 percent that everything I do is meant to benefit the team. I stand for them and I believe in them. I probably believe more in their talents than they do themselves. I know they can grow to world class level if they are offered the opportunity to develop. I use everything I have to offer to help them become better players. I hope my experience helps in that.

And how did you feel about qualifying?

It was magic and a feeling I have never experienced before and will never experience again. It was more intense than when I qualified for the finals of a tournament with the Netherlands for the



Rio bound! Jermaine Seoposenwe scores against Equatorial Guinea to send Banyana to the Olympics

How they qualified

Saturday, 23 May 2015

At Stade Augustin Monedan, Libreville, Gabon

Gabon (1) 2

South Africa (2) 3 (*Jermaine Seoposenwe 2, Sanah Mollo*)

Sunday, 31 May 2015

At Dobsonville Stadium

South Africa (3) 5 (*Jermaine Seoposenwe 2, Amanda Dlamini, Refiloe Jane, Sanah Mollo*)

Gabon 0

Saturday, 18 July 2015

At Dobsonville Stadium

South Africa (0) 1 (*Lebohang Ramalepe*)

Kenya 0

Sunday, 2 August 2015

At Machakos Stadium, Machakos, Kenya

Kenya 0

South Africa (0) 1 (*Rhoda Mulaudzi*)

Saturday, 3 October 2015

At Makhulong Stadium

South Africa 0

Equatorial Guinea 0

Sunday, 18 October 2015

At Estadio de Bata, Bata

Equatorial Guinea 0

South Africa (0) 1 (*Jermaine Seoposenwe*)

first time ever after 25 years of fighting against all odds. In the Netherlands it was a luxury to finally reach the goal. In South Africa it will mean a different life for these fantastic players. We will do everything to show the world that we have something special to offer, qualities that do not exist in the current top level professional club teams. I believe that after the Olympics several players will earn contracts abroad if we manage to set up an optimal preparation program.

How did you and the ladies manage to qualify despite all the difficulties?

We have developed in all aspects, from the sense of teamwork and the executions of the tasks in it to carrying responsibility for the team on each shoulder, player or staff member. It has been a project of step-by-step growth to the maximal team performance. This can be a painful process because each of us, including players and staff, has to step out of our comfort zone to be able to step into the unknown. It is nice to feel comfortable. But top sports people can only succeed under pressure. That in

itself creates resistance because the nature of the individual is to look for comfort. It isn't comfortable to have a 40 000-strong crowd against you with the knowledge that that is the only chance to qualify for the Olympic Games – your dream. That is why you need to trust each other completely; to know if one makes a mistake, someone else will be there to make it good. Only then you will lose the fear of making mistakes and you can act freely. You have to know that you are appreciated as an individual with all your qualities and shortcomings.

Banyana qualifying for the Olympics for the second time is great, but what must be done for us to compete rather than just add to the numbers as in 2012?

As soon as the programme is ready, we will announce it and explain what and when we plan to do things. Key is that we have to grow further. We should not lose anything of what we have built so far and from there we have to grow to unknown levels. It is possible and we have the talent. Qualifying was your first challenge. What will be your next big task with Banyana

or women's football in general in South Africa?

A national league will be crucial for continuity after the Olympic Games. The Olympics should not be an isolated challenge, but the moment to become a powerhouse of women's football in the world. Sponsors should realise the potential and the impact of this team. It is rewarding to connect your brand to us and we will prove that! All dominating countries have professional leagues and contracts for their best players. We need a full pyramid of our football structure. We miss the top. Only if the full structure is in place, we can develop and expand every aspect of the game. Amanda Dlamini is absolutely right in saying that. Even the Netherlands could only make the next step after creating a league connected to the men's professional clubs. It is time South Africa makes that choice too. It just opens the doors to opportunities of sponsoring and support. Professional clubs will become true community clubs when they pick up the responsibility for the development of the most talented players of the biggest sport for both men and women in the world. **KO**

“ The Olympics should be the moment to become a powerhouse of women's football. ”



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REAL + SIMPLE - **R1 249**

Blue/Black Denim Workman,
REAL + SIMPLE - **R1 249**

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R249

Dark Blue Sleeve Sweater
Number Logo, POLO - **R399**

JEANS

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Tapered, LEVI'S® - **R899**

SHORTS

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Mid Blue Denim, NEXT - **R540**

Blue Chino, GUESS - **R499**

CAP

Black Splitz, VANS - **R399**

SHOES

Roshe Run Dark Red Premium,
NIKE - **R999**; Classic White
Canvas, SUPERGA - **R649**

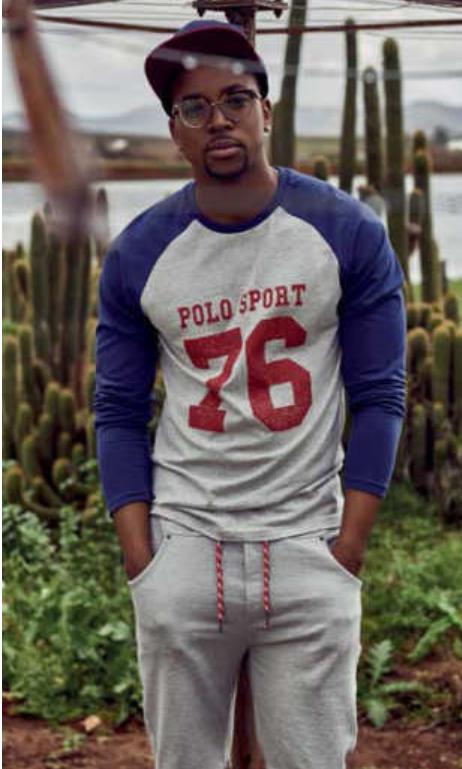


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JOHN CRAIG

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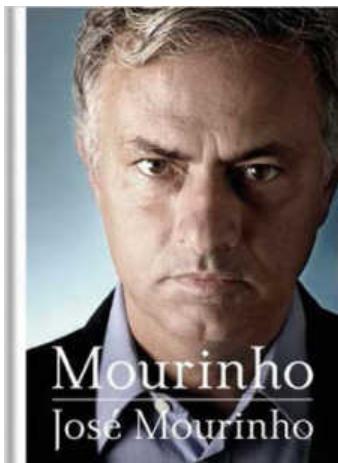
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Stuff we like

KICK OFF brings you the best selection of accessories, gadgets, tools and tech products to make sure you hit the target with the latest trends.



The Special One

R487 @ Exclusive Books

By his own admission, Jose Mourinho is currently facing the most difficult period in his career. While it may be easier to avoid the limelight during these trying times, it's business as usual for the Chelsea boss who has even found time to release a new self-titled book. With more than 120 personally selected images, football fans are in for an insightful read into the mind of one of football's most successful managers.

For the hard knocks

R1250 @ storelli.com

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Our smartphones have this uncanny habit of dying on us just when we need them most. This back-up battery from Mimo could be the lifesaver you need. It provides 3-4 hours battery life and includes a universal USB charging cable along with a convenient carry pouch.



Stirring it up

R86 @ Raru.co.za

House music maestro Black Coffee has brewed up another sizzling musical treat with his latest offering *Pieces of Me*. True to form, the 12-track album went platinum a month after release in September this year, which only goes to show the immense pulling power the internationally acclaimed producer & DJ possesses.



An eye for modern flair

R2000 @ Luxottica.co.za

These shades sum up everything that's distinctively urban and fresh about the Emporio Armani collection. The design focuses on smooth, curvy lines with contrasting metal frames and a double bridge, so you'll be looking like a million bucks all summer with them on.

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Lasting
moisture
control

At the peak of his career ex-Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder Brent Carelse dribbled past defenders with silky ease, using his trademark body swerve and acceleration to good effect. Driving the Chevrolet Trailblazer around Cape Town's District Six draws distinct similarities – the midfielder is happy behind the wheel and beats the bends with no trouble at all.

"This is by far one of the most comfortable cars I have ever driven," Carelse says. "It drives really well for such a big car. I also own a SUV – my car is a Land Rover Discovery – so I'm used to driving high and proud. But this is special. A car like this is good for long distances or when you go camping with family and children. It's a seven-seater, so there's enough space for everyone. The inside is spacious. Obviously it doesn't take off as quickly as a small car, but once you hit the freeway it flies, and I like that."

Carelse began his career at the age of ten in Westbury, Johannesburg, before joining Safa's School of Excellence in 1994. When Bafana Bafana played Zambia in May 1994 in honour of President Nelson Mandela's inauguration, Carelse played in a curtain-raiser match featuring the school. A few years later he moved to Cape Town where he joined Hellenic and made his professional debut. As he grew older, his style of play matured with age – and so did his choice for cars.

"The way you play football changes with age and the same applies when it comes to cars," Carelse explains.

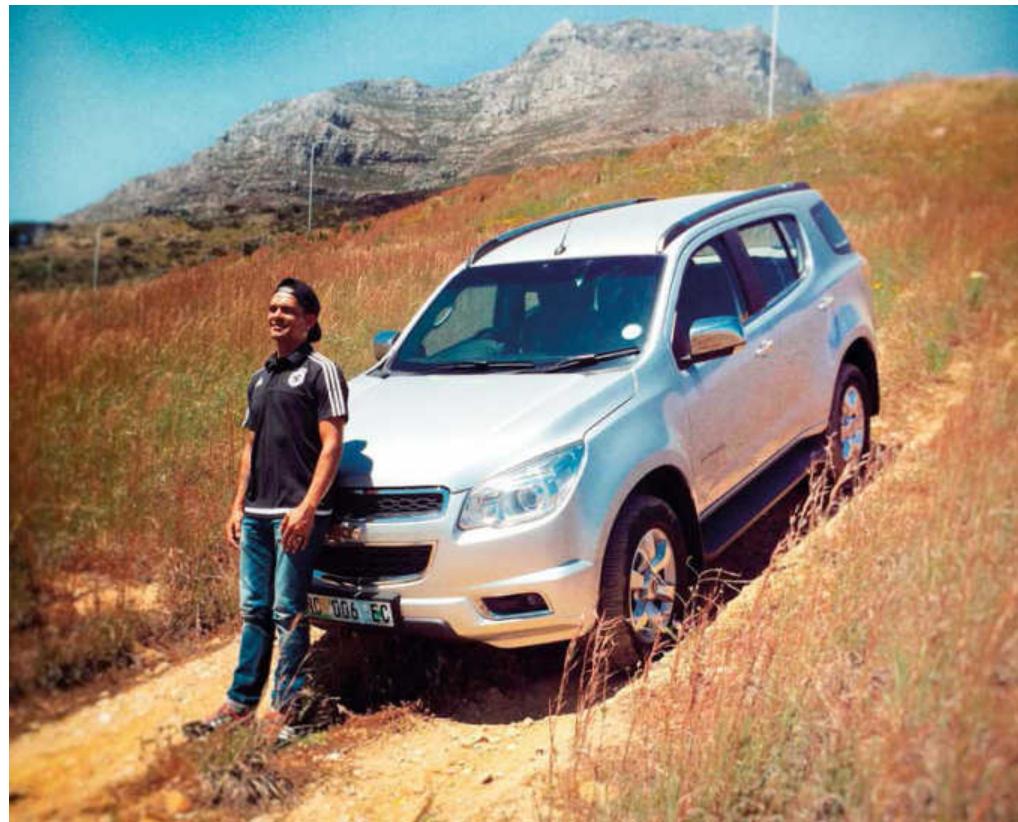
"As a young player, it's all about excitement and playing for fun, but as you grow older you adjust your pace and play according to your age. I learned to drive in a small car – a Fiat Uno – and used it to take my driver's test.

"My first car was a Jumbo

Blazing new trails

Former Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder Brent Carelse has evolved from sports car fanatic to family man. He takes Chevrolet's Trailblazer for a spin.

BY ZOLA DODA



Golf, then a Honda Civic and then a BMW Compact – it was comfortable and sporty, I used it a lot for day-to-day driving like going to training. It's a great young man's car. Obviously now I'm older; I have a wife and kids so a SUV is more applicable to my lifestyle.

"This Trailblazer is ideal; a family car that makes life easy because there's everything you need inside including all the best technology and safety. There's a great music system too – obviously important – and plenty of space for the kids."

After spending eight years in Cape Town playing for Hellenic and Ajax Cape Town, Carelse joined mega-rich Sundowns.

At Sundowns he won three trophies before joining SuperSport United where he won three League titles. In 2012, Carelse returned to Cape Town, re-joining Ajax.

So Cape Town or Jozi?

"In Johannesburg people are more patient because they are used to sitting in traffic, but Cape Town, eish, they are different. They sit in traffic for five minutes and they are already panicking. But either place, if you have to be in traffic, this car is the best – play music, relax, it's big in here. Comfort is what I like the most, and I like the reversing camera and the leather seats."

Carelse is completely relaxed commandeering the big Chev. He has been off-road up a

near-vertical incline – "Jeeez, noooo problem!" – and cruised the highways. As we head back he's in reflective mood.

"Unlike driving this car, my career was not always so comfortable," the player says, laughing.

"I had ups and downs and obviously winning the titles with Sundowns and SuperSport rank high. Now I want to coach the youth, I really enjoy that, and want to give back to the community. After all, that's how I got my break." **K0**



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STAR LETTER

WHAT YOUTH MUST SHAKES TO TURN TO?



I heard Phil Masinga saying Bra Shakes must turn to youth. It is a good statement, but what about clubs that remain reluctant to give youngsters a chance? I can only single out Ajax Cape Town

who have no fear in giving youth a chance. It's proven to be a recipe for success judging by their recent Cup success. These players deserve more coverage. Ajax's set-up needs to be taught countrywide for

the survival and revival of the game we all love. If we continue to ignore this model, Bafana Bafana will forever be in trouble.

**Mxolisi Ngongoma,
Maclear**



Congratulations!

Mxolisi Ngongoma wins a pair of Adidas LZ TRX Samba boots! Five Predator Zones give explosive power and sublime control, while the Sprintframe gives excellent manoeuvrability and traction. You can also win a pair of Adidas boots by sending your views in a star-quality letter to KICK OFF.

Make your point to the nation

To air your views, send your letters to Kick Off, People's Forum, PO Box 16368, Vlaeberg, 8018 or e-mail them to forum@kickoff.com

The views expressed in the letters published in People's Forum do not reflect the views of KICK OFF magazine, its editor, publisher or Media24. The editor reserves the right to edit and shorten letters. Letters shorter than 200 words will be given preference.

Bafana need Kermit

Shakes Mashaba might not want Kermit Erasmus in his squad for whatever reason, but Bafana Bafana need him for his aggression, skill, scoring ability and work rate. Even the hardest of critics will agree that the Bucs striker should be playing for Bafana. It's time the coach swallows his pride and buries the hatchet for the sake of the national team. If Shakes can forgive players who previously refused call-ups, Erasmus shouldn't be treated differently.

Sipho Buthelezi, Vosloorus

Some more equal than others

Based on my observation, accessing established development academies requires capital more than talent. Academies have to reduce their joining fees because we can't afford them. We suffer because people with money take shortcuts by bribing coaches to play their children in some instances. Township boys don't get opportunities because of the bad name certain former players from our communities have given the rest of us. I plead with coaches to give kasi youngsters a chance to play. Contrary to belief, they are disciplined and only need equal opportunities.

KG Mndebele

Let's be honest

Pule Ekstein is 25-years-old and hardly has a record worth mentioning. Look at Dede Ayew for instance: He is 26-years-old, has over 65 caps for Ghana, plays in the Premier League and has won a host of accolades. With a CV like that, he's a grown man, yet in SA we are still calling the likes of Ekstein youngsters. Completely pathetic! I respect Pitso for fielding an Under-23 player like Keagan Dolly. He has balls unlike another coach who still doubts a 25-year-old's talent by not playing him regularly. This can't be the case if we claim to be making progress as a country football-wise.

Tebogo 'Tebza' Ngwana, via KickOff.com

Komphela must fall

I have been watching you try fill the big shoes of former Kaizer Chiefs coaches and thought you'd eventually come right, but you have failed completely Mr Komphela. Chiefs are playing their worst football

TALKING POINT • RIP Cecil Lolo



Lolo was underrated

Cecil Lolo was an all-round key player for Ajax, but also one of the most underrated players in the League. He played a huge role contributing to Ajax's MTN8 final win. He was in the prime of his career when death claimed him. His presence will be dearly missed on and off the pitch. Rest in peace Sonwabile.

Raymond Isaacs, Dibeng

Ajax are a disgrace

Cecil Lolo was their player and a teammate to many more. Financial support doesn't equate to emotional support for Lolo's family. How could they make excuses about having to travel long distances on bad roads? I bet if Lolo was from the suburbs, they would have made a plan. He played his heart out for Ajax and even helped them secure the MTN8, but they thank him like this? Chippa must be applauded for doing what Ajax failed to do.

Abongile Mpinga Gqola, via Facebook

Ajax showed Ubuntu

Grieving for the departed is a personal thing and should not be used as a publicity stunt. Ajax did what they felt they had to do. Players should take responsibility. Even Senzo didn't have funeral cover! Ajax gave the boy a dignified sending off which his own family wasn't able to provide. If I was to pass away today, would it mean my CEO, managers and colleagues are obliged to come to my funeral? Thank you Ajax for showing Ubuntu.

King Capi,
via KickOff.com

Ajax doesn't get it

That's how life is in the former Transkei area – we travel long distances on very bad dirt roads. And yes, travelling in 4X4s at times is the only way to negotiate such roads. That's no excuse for the players not making the trip to pay their last respects to Lolo. Clubs need to look after their players and offer packages that include pension, medical aid and the likes.

Zininzi Mpurwana,
via Facebook

No initiative from the players

I don't remember being sent an invitation to a funeral. Ajax's players should have handed in leave forms informing management they are attending a funeral. The players are adults too and must think for themselves. Club management played their part by organising two memorial services, sending money for the funeral, groceries and a trust fund for Lolo's kids.

Tshepo Thys Magane

Paying last respects is priceless

Thank you Roger De Sa for going to great lengths to explain what Ajax did for Cecil Lolo after his death. While the club's efforts were significant, paying one's last respects to the departed is extremely vital. The absence of the players at the funeral will not be easily forgotten despite all the material contributions.

L-Professore Makatise,
via Facebook

in recent years. Even the games you've won have not been convincing. You don't change tactics when the game demands and your substitutions are wrong (evident in the MTN8 Final and the League derby). We have depth sir, so use other players when your current regulars are not performing!

Ezra Hlatshwayo, Nelson Mandela Bay

South Africa needs introspection

In years gone by, South Africa used to produce top quality players who would go on to compete pound-for-pound with the best in the world.

Sadly, the country has failed to export world class players in recent times. Those who are shipped to big leagues overseas these days often find themselves on the bench or eventually loaned out to teams in lower divisions. South Africa needs to dig deep into the past to find out what was done right in terms of developing top quality players. If thorough introspection is done, I'm sure the country will get right back on track.

Siboniso Zwane, Manzini, Swaziland

Tackles kill careers

We all understand that football is a contact sport, however I strongly believe the PSL and Safa should intervene more vigorously to protect players against malicious tackles. Fresh in my mind is Thulani Hlatshwayo's bone-crunching tackle on Sifiso Myeni. Once a player gets injured, he misses out on potential win bonuses, match appearance fees and other incentives while the perpetrator gets away with murder. A two-match ban does not equate to what the injured player misses from the sidelines. Footballers are assets and deserve to be protected on the field.

Nyaniso Funani, Fort Beaufort

Downs and Chiefs must step up

I am proud to have witnessed Orlando Pirates doing SA proud all these years in CAF tournaments and still going strong. My only concern is: why aren't the other big clubs in SA, namely Sundowns and Chiefs, not putting in the same effort? Player and financial resources cannot be

an excuse. We need to keep our country's flag flying as high as possible as a joint effort from all clubs who have the means to do so.

Bongani Nameka

A clear vision needed

Vision 2022 is only going to be possible if we take care of the current fantastic U-17s, who are phenomenal. They may have finished bottom of their group, but the main thing is they've done better than their senior counterparts by qualifying for a World Cup. It's hard to imagine where these boys will be in 2022, but if the bulk remain together, they'll definitely make us proud for years to come.

Tshepo Mashoeshoe

Zongo is special

Zongo has always been a player to watch. I'm a huge fan of SA football and I feel good watching games where players play to entertain the crowd. I don't think this equates to showboating. It's all about showing one's true potential, skills and marketing your talent. People

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2. What I like most about KICK OFF for 2015/16 is ...

KICK OFF is a reliable source of soccer news in Africa, touching on important topics beyond the 90 minutes. The content is always relevant and the language usage is accommodative. Not to mention that the price tag is very affordable.

3. Something I don't like about KICK OFF is ...

Even though we note and appreciate the value of non-football pages, it can sometimes deprive us of reading more soccer news.

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should stop criticising good things because some of us love it.
Sackynho, Namibia, Nkurenkuru

Lightning never strikes twice

There was no way Pirates could've beaten us again in such a short space of time. This is our chance to reclaim the glory sorely missed since Baxter's departure. Congratulations to Steve Komphela and the boys. Let's bring the Cup home!

Letladi wa Ga-Mphahlele, Maralaleng

LOOKALIKES



Xabi Alonso

Jason Bateman

Bayern Munich's Xabi Alonso entertains on the football pitch while actor Jason Bateman does the same on the big screen. That's not all they share in common. Take a look.

Send us your look-alikes and WIN!

Gaoagelwe wins himself a DX Smooth men's skincare hamper worth R350 for sending us his lookalikes. Put your matchmaking skills to the test and you too can be a winner!



Send us your lookalikes (one of whom must be a soccer personality) along with your name and address to competitions@kickoff.com. Use 'DX Smooth Lookalikes' in the subject line.

BEAT THE PLAYER

- Who was red-carded for the bad tackle on Sifiso Myeni which saw him stretchered off the field in the match between Orlando Pirates and Bidvest Wits?
- In his 11 games in the MLS this season, how many goals has Didier Drogba scored?
- Who wears jersey number 10 at Mamelodi Sundowns?
- Who said these words:
- Cristiano Ronaldo might train a lot but Messi, like Ronaldinho, is a genius naturally."
- Which former Bafana Bafana coach is coaching Maritzburg United?
- Luis Suarez scored his first hat-trick this season against which team in La Liga?
- Who are the main sponsors of Mpumalanga Black Aces?
- 1 366 games, 1 284 goals and 3 World Cups: who is this Brazilian?
- Former Polokwane City coach Kosta Papic is originally from which country?
- Who is Chelsea's former team doctor who was banned from training and matches by Jose Mourinho at the beginning of the season?



ANDREW FRANCIS

AGE: 18
FROM: Dibeng
TEAM: Orlando Pirates



XOLANI KHONDWANE

AGE: 19
FROM: Nelspruit
TEAM: Orlando Pirates



ANDILE FIKIZOLO

AGE: 21 / POSITION: Midfield
TEAM: Golden Arrows (on loan from SuperSport)

1. Thulani Hlatshwayo
(correct)

2. 4 goals
(incorrect)

3. Teko Modise
(correct)

4. Yaya Toure
(correct)

5. Clive Barker
(correct)

6. Eibar
(correct)

7. Gilbert
(incorrect)

8. Pele
(correct)

9. Serbia
(correct)

10. Not sure
(incorrect)

1. Thulani Hlatshwayo
(correct)

2. 2 goals
(incorrect)

3. Teko Modise
(correct)

4. Alexis Sanchez
(incorrect)

5. Clive Barker
(correct)

6. Las Palmas
(incorrect)

7. ISPS Handa
(correct)

8. Pele
(correct)

9. Serbia
(correct)

10. Eva Carneiro
(correct)

1. Thulani Hlatshwayo
(correct)

2. 7 goals
(incorrect – it was 11)

3. Teko Modise
(correct)

4. Steven Gerrard
(incorrect)

5. Clive Barker
(correct)

6. Celta Vigo
(incorrect)

7. Umbro
(incorrect)

8. Pele
(correct)

9. Not sure
(incorrect)

10. Eva Carneiro
(correct)

TOTAL: 7/10

TOTAL: 7/10

TOTAL: 5/10

Two readers take on a PSL star in a quiz. You can also take part by sending a hi-res photo with your full name, age, phone number and location to forum@kickoff.com, with the subject line 'Beat the Player'.



Tough times for Mourinho!

It's been a tough season for defending champions Chelsea ... so much so that their manager Jose Mourinho was spotted seeking divine intervention.



Gary Neville, is that you?

Now we know what former Manchester United right-back Gary Neville does for a living when he is not working as a pundit for Sky Sports!

Been getting a lot of hate cuz I said Kolarov is best RB in the league. People crying saying "he's a left back thick ____". Well I have uploaded a pic of City's line up and you can quite clearly see he's on the right side of the back 4! "I won't believe it until I see it on sky sports". Well, here it is. Think before you speak 😂



Matthew "The Special Fan" Foster!

This fan deserves an award! Matthew Foster was very confused about how teams line up on the field (right and left) while trying to justify which players were playing for Manchester City.

Tommie Hoban  @tommiehoban05

So a guy just tried to break into a house, people confronted him, he ran, tripped on the curb, headbutted my car and knocked himself out...

7:39 PM - 1 Nov 2015

42 542 525

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Criminals these days just a aren't what they used to be

7:40 PM - 1 Nov 2015

42 199 154

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The guy clearly had some brick head though cause he's still managed to dent my car 😂

7:41 PM - 1 Nov 2015

42 197 159

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The world's dumbest criminal?

Watford defender Tommie Hoban was almost robbed, but luckily the person who tried to rob him managed to knock himself out while fleeing the scene! Hoban tweeted the whole incident on social media.

Ramos gets spotted

A shopper at a store called Mercadona in Tenerife, Spain, spotted a security guard who looked exactly like Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos. Twitter went crazy for hours until Ramos replied, "I want to officially deny that I have been signed by Mercadona," he said.



LAUGH WITH PROFF

CONTACT PROFF To get in touch with Proff, check out his blog – diskioff.blogspot.com – or catch him on www.kickoff.com/forum.

Rules to protect Pirates

Safa have released new rules to protect Orlando Pirates from relegation.

1. Pirates will be allowed to field 13 players during home games and 15 during away games.
2. If they win two consecutive corner kicks, they will be awarded a penalty.
3. Any attempt on goal will be treated as a goal, including shots off target.
4. If a Pirates player is fouled it's a straight penalty, regardless of the position.

5. They will be allowed to make 13 substitutions.
6. They will be awarded 6 points for every match won, 4 points for a draw and 2 points for a loss.
7. They will be allowed to field two goalkeepers at the same time.
8. Any attempt to tackle or mark Kermit Erasmus will result in a penalty.
9. Eric Tinkler will be allowed to instruct players from inside the pitch.

Komphela opens case against Tinkler

Kaizer Chiefs lodged a complaint after Orlando Pirates defeated them 3-1 in the Premiership. It is said that Steve Komphela opened a case against Eric Tinkler regarding why Pirates brought their CAF form to a PSL fixture. Komphela was quoted saying, "How dare Pirates play like that? We are not Al Ahly or AC Leopards." The matter is being investigated and we will keep you updated.

Soccer star to be a Springbok

A soccer star became a rugby player overnight at FNB Stadium during the Telkom Knockout semi-final clash between Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs when Bucs player Siyabonga Sangweni nearly converted his penalty over the crossbar. Heyneke Meyer is seriously considering replacing Handre Pollard with Sangweni, judging by the potential he showed from the penalty spot.



Keagan Dolly

Football player

Born: January 22, 1993 (age 22), Johannesburg
Current team: South Africa national football team (Midfielder)

People also search for



Did You Know?

Keagan Dolly is a South African football player who plays for Manchester City in the Barclays Premier League, according to Wikipedia?

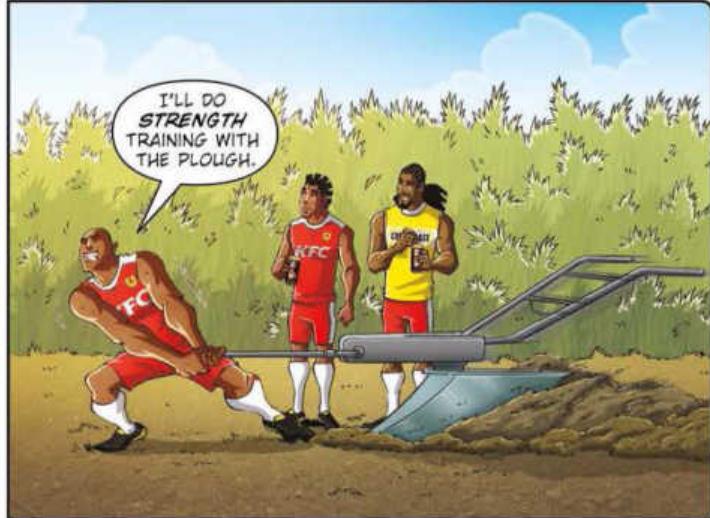
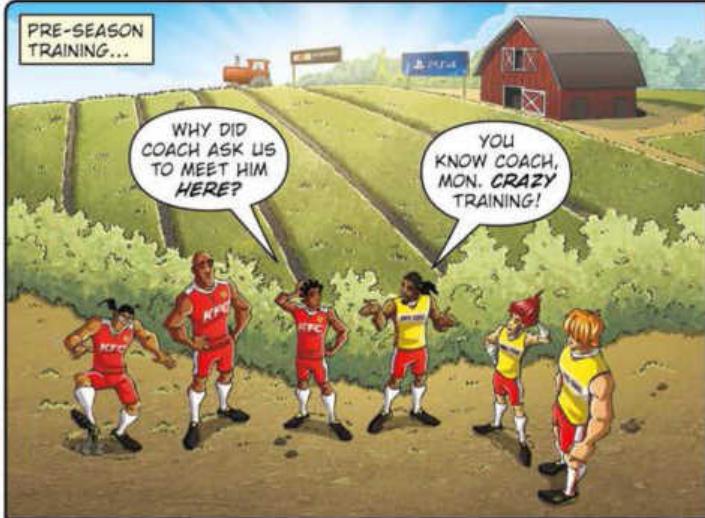


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PICK YOUR SIDE CAREFULLY

YOU don't always like all your teammates. That's the truth. There are players you get on with and there are those you don't. There's no rule that says you must like the guys you work with.

In every squad you will find three groups of players. There's a group that has been together for a few years: they are used to each other, they know each other well, they are comfortable at the club, have long-term contracts and know all the ins and outs of what happens behind the scenes – they are the A-team.

Then you have the new guys, the guys on the fringe, new to the club, new to the surroundings, trying to get in the team, trying hard to please everyone – collectively this group is the B-team. The A-team are still deciding if they like you, if they want you in their group, if they want you in their world.

There is another group, sometimes a very small group of players: these are the guys who work between the A-team and the B-team – they are like glue. They are neutral, not in either camp, often a player who has been at the club for a short time, not a new player but not experienced enough to be in the A-team – they are on the fringe and desperate to find a group that will accept them, so they work both camps.

But what happens when you're not playing regularly, the coach is not picking you,



“ You read about fist-fights among players at training – it happens a little more than the media reports. **”**

you're feeling left out and you are looking for reasons? You start to blame other people, and this is where infighting can destroy the team's harmony. You start off by getting the guys in your camp on your side, you get them to agree that you should be playing, you get them to agree that the coach is picking his favourite players instead of the best players – and you decide to do something about it.

Supporters don't watch every training session, so it's hard to imagine this, but if I'm not happy with a certain player in the squad – maybe he's getting picked ahead of me, maybe he's not my favourite

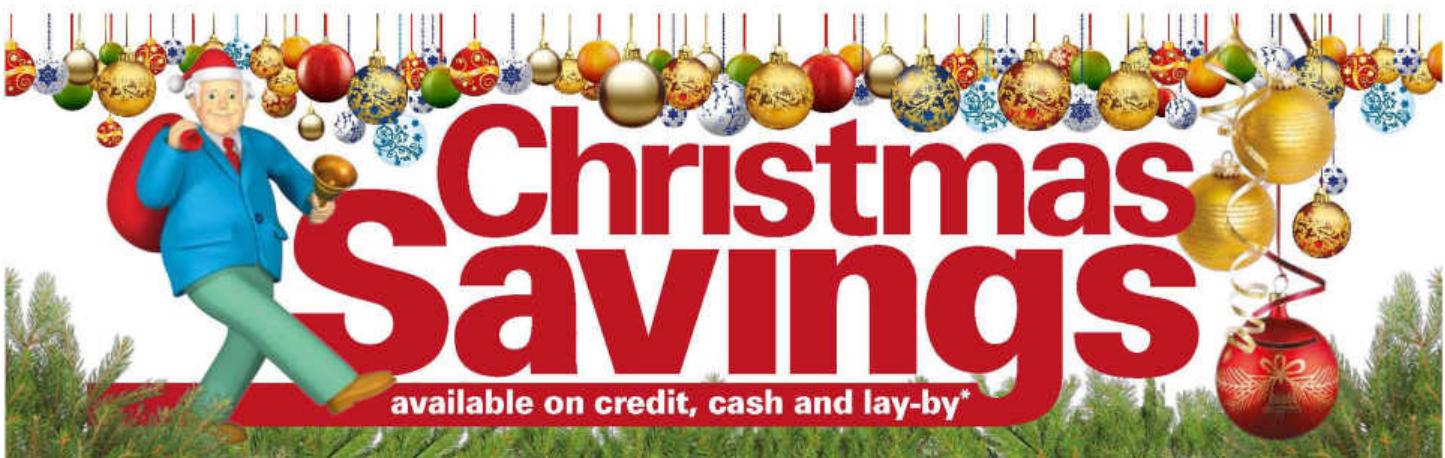
person or I think he has a big head – I can make it very hard for him in training. He doesn't know how I feel about it, I'm almost in disguise, so instead of passing the ball where he wants it, I put it a little behind him, or I hit it a little harder than I should – just enough so that it's not obvious, but enough so that he doesn't look good. I'm also first to give him encouragement, in front of the coach I shout at him “unlucky boy, keep your head up, don't worry, your touch will come back” – just a small reminder to the coach that he is struggling with his touch.

There are some players who don't use the disguise like

me – they pick the moment to hammer you in a tackle. They will hit you harder than any opponent and you know that you are a target.

Others will just avoid you at all costs. They look up and see you are in a good position, but they turn and pass backwards to their mate, who turns away from you too and goes the other way. You are now playing against your own teammates.

Sometimes it boils over, you can't contain your feelings and it explodes on the training pitch. You read about fist-fights among players at training ... well, let me tell you, it happens a little more than the media reports. Next time you read about it, imagine it's just the A-team and the B-team flexing their muscles! **KO**



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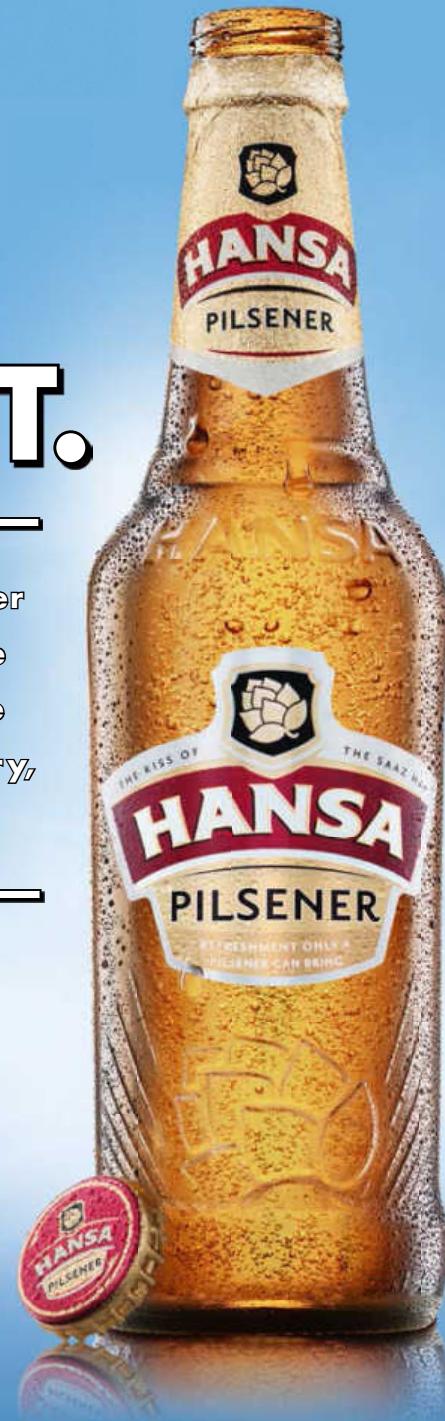


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